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Editors of The Spectator

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may 2, 2007

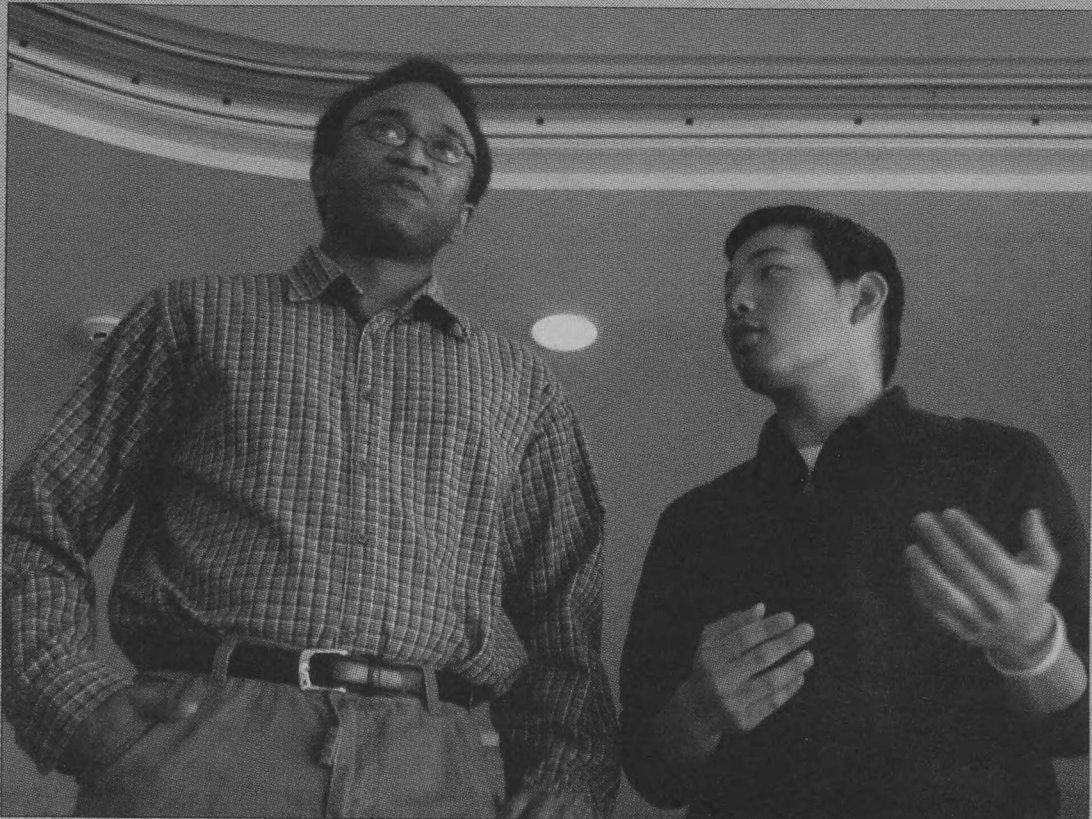
5

weeks left

the spectator

since 1933

Yoon prepares to take reigns of ASSU



Julie Ignacio

The Spectator

ASSU President elect Aaron Yoon, junior finance major (right) speaks with newly elected Executive Vice President DuWayne Andrews Jr. (left) in the student center. Yoon beat Steve Lombardi by a slim margin to secure the presidency, Andrews ran uncontested.

3

Pride month looks to build bridges

Jessica Van Gilder
Staff Writer

The first annual SU Pride Month spans four weeks of entertainment and education for the SU community, aimed at expanding SU's commitment to diversity beyond a racial spectrum.

"[This month] is about showing that you can be a Catholic Jesuit school and still be open and affirming to the queer community. We're really trying to take the initiative to build those bridges," said Shawn Wilkinson, president of the Triangle Club and sophomore international studies major. "We're trying to show the administration that we're interested in pursuing that relationship and hoping the administration will follow suit."

At the same time Wilkinson, acknowledged the "administration has been very supportive so far" and the month's events are designed to engage not only the administration, but every student on campus.

One of the strong supports for Pride Month, Renata Opoczynski, also noted that SU is one of the few Catholic institutions that include gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy.

"Because SU is a very supportive environment [due to] our Jesuit principles and values – like care and diversity – that resonate so well with all of the students, I'm not concerned about the month," said Opoczynski. "I think this month's going to educate where a lot of people have misconceptions, or maybe stereotypes. I think it will work to break a lot of these stereotypes, which is what Jesuit is all about."

Opoczynski and Wilkinson emphasized that the uniqueness of the month stems from its educational aspect, aimed at making the events welcoming for students outside of SU's queer community. They also are working to achieve widespread support from nine other organizations on campus.

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Women's lacrosse ends second season

Nicholas Lollini
Editor-in-Chief

In January, the Seattle University women's Lacrosse team entered into their first season of league play, as participants in the Northwest region of the Women's Division Intercollegiate Associates (WDIA). Last Thursday, under the lights of the University of Washington's Intramural Activities field, the team played their first "home" match, but final game of the season against the University of Washington. The game ended in a draw, with the score tied at six goals apiece.

"In our first year as a team we scrimmaged UW and we lost 20-1," said Allison Purcell, sophomore Co-Captain. "Earlier this year we lost by a spread of five; so coming out and tying them was the best way to end a season for us."

The Redhawks found their rhythm early in the game, as they were able to get into their set offense. Offensively, the cuts, drives and stick handling skills matched

the defensive capabilities of the University of Washington, allowing the Seattle University team to put up six goals, in the 60 minutes of regulation, in addition to going up 6-5 with only minutes remaining in the game.

"I think overall the best thing about our team is that we learned basic skills very quickly, and that we learned to play as a team, our team's support system was also helpful," said Purcell.

Defensively, the team was unable to halt the University of Washington's offensive attack, as the Huskies were able to penetrate Seattle University's defense with cuts, and isolated drives, which gave them near one-on-ones with Seattle University's goalie Juliet Agne.

"UW has a history of great programs; they lost their coach and a few of their players after last year. They went onto regionals and did well in their last game," said Erin Engelhardt, one of Seattle University's coaches.

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Music resonates at Coachella

Jackie Canchola
Photography Editor

To travel to California, there must be a reason. This past weekend, the eighth annual Coachella Music and Arts festival in Indio, California came along to turn my world upside down. I did not need to study for midterms or go out to a house party; everything I needed was packed into three days of unexplainable excitement. I will now try to put my experience into inked words.

I arrived in San Diego Thursday night at 8:30 p.m. A friend, Randali, picked me up from the airport in his broken down Cadillac to see Heaven and Hell, the music collaboration of Black Sabbath and Dio. We rocked out to the classic guitar solos of Tony Iommi, which threw me into a whirlwind of what this weekend had in store for me.

Randali is the man with the connections. We were chess buddies at a coffee shop until I realized his importance. This is a man that was at the conference table when Coachella was first envisioned. The



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

creators called him during the Sabbath/Dio show informing him all was set up for tomorrow; day 1 of Coachella.

We got in early to beat the rush. We arrived to suffer in the high sun of 100 degree plus weather. We were greeted at the side gates by the president of the printing company that produced all the flyers, programs, posters and anything Coachella. He handed Randali a red All-Access cloth wristband and I got a purple Field wristband.

We were lead to the RV that was next to the dudes of Alien Ant Farm, Paul Frank party bus

people, and all the artists of the festival in their visually stunning tents and costumes.

The air-conditioned RV was tempting but I was there for a concert, not to live the VIP ghost life. I flashed my wristband to the sweaty security and entered my destiny. Okay, my destiny didn't start right away, since it was too early and no bands were scheduled to perform for another hour. So, I adventured like a zombie of heat to stare and awe at the art exhibitions scattered throughout the 70 acres of Polo fields.

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Friday
May 4, 2007

57°
42°



Saturday
May 5, 2007

57°
47°



Sunday
May 6, 2007

66°
52°



New textbook law, lower costs

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The addicting World of Warcraft

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Students rough the elements for Ugandan freedom

Rose Egge
Staff Writer

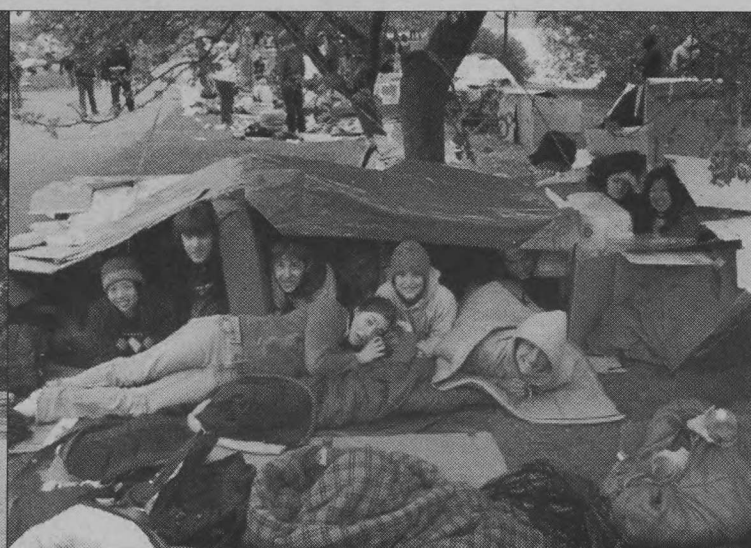
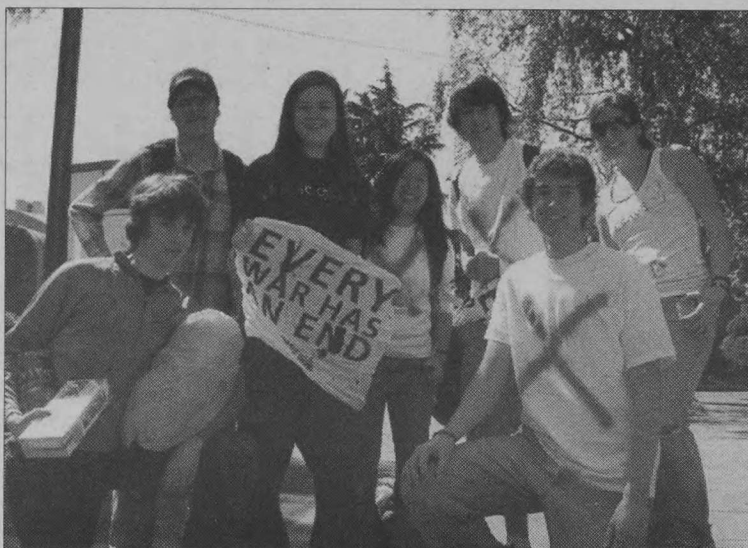
While most young people in Seattle were relaxing or partying with friends this weekend, approximately 5000 of their peers were sleeping in cardboard huts in Seattle's Magnuson Park.

The simulation, called Displace Me, was designed to raise awareness of the displacement camps currently taking place in Northern Uganda. High school and college students from Seattle, Portland, Idaho and many cities in between gave up 18 hours of their weekend in support of the "Invisible Children" movement, which raises awareness on the Uganda issue.

"It was really cool to see how even our so-called uncaring and apathetic generation could gather that many people for the cause," said Sean Baird, freshman theology major. "It was inspiring to see so many youth getting involved."

Many young people, including 50 Seattle University students, were exposed the struggles people face in other parts of the world.

"I learned a lot about the conditions that they are enduring and just how complicated the situation is. These people have been away from their homes for so long that they don't even know what will be there when they finally get out," said Sarah Shives, junior psychology major.



Courtesy Sarah Shives

To bring awareness to problems in Uganda, youth from around the Northwest gathered in Magnuson Park to sleep in cardboard shacks.

to bring a box of saltine crackers and a liter of water to share. Volunteers collected these at the beginning of the day and later had the women gather water for their group while men gathered food. This activity was designed to represent women in Uganda who walk two miles, four times a day to get water while men travel to get food.

"What really hit me was wanting so badly to come back to my bed, my shower, my clean clothes, and my meal plan, and then having the privilege to do so," Shives said. "I keep thinking about how unfair it is that I get to come home and get comfortable, but the people in Northern Uganda don't have that option."

Volunteer Kathleen Chan, a junior communications major, echoed similar sentiments.

"It was so hard for us to do it for one night, and northern Uganda has done it for 10 years," she said. "We wanted to give people an idea [of what it's like in Uganda], and just inspire some genuine compassion in them."

Participants also watched video testimonies from people living in displacement camps in Uganda.

Those involved with "Invisible Children" are confident that the Displace Me event will have noticeable effects on the global situation.

Last year, they organized a similar event, dubbed the Global Night Commute, to draw attention to the conflict in Uganda. Over 150,000 young people all over the United States walked, and two months later peace talks ensued. Unfortunately the talks fell apart in February, and things looked bad until an April 15 cease fire was called in Uganda. For "Invisible Children," this is a key time to gain international support.

"Invisible Children's one of those things that we would love to stay involved in the movement, but, at the same time, we don't want there to be a movement for us to have to be involved in. We really hope that by doing Displace Me, it will bring international attention and changes will come so that we don't have to do this next year," Chan said.

The "Invisible Children" move-

ment was originally inspired by an amateur film documentary. Three young journalists from San Diego traveled to Uganda, unsure of what their documentary would be about. Once there, they found a war torn country where much of the youth suffered as child soldiers.

Since then, youth all over America have taken on the cause to improve education and bring peace to Northern Uganda.

"It's lighting a fire in youth here,

and giving kids in America something to be passionate about," Chan said. "They're my peers, so I can get involved with it to, because it's my movement, it's my generation's movement."

Recently an "Invisible Children" club was developed at Seattle University to get students here involved in the movement. Chan, the club's president, also plans to start a "school for schools" program here, in which Seattle University would

raise money to assist one school in Uganda.

"SU is all about social justice, and I think a lot of people on this campus are really aware of global issues," Chan said. "This war in Uganda is the easiest war to end right now, and I think it's a really easy way to make a huge difference."

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It's lighting a fire in youth here, and giving kids something to be passionate about.

Kathleen Chan
Volunteer, "Invisible Children"

Displace Me had two main goals. First, "Invisible Children" wanted to receive national media attention so that the United States government would realize that the suffering in Uganda is a priority for U.S. citizens.

Participants wrote letters to their senators, encouraging U.S. diplomatic involvement in peace talks, while "Invisible Children" volunteers filmed the event to show in a few weeks when they meet with the Senate.

Volunteers with the "Invisible Children" movement wanted participants to understand what it is like to live in a displacement camp in Northern Uganda. To make the simulation as accurate as possible, participants built their own cardboard huts to sleep in that night.

"Sleeping on the cardboard made for a night without much sleep, but it was interesting to see all the cardboard houses spread out, all decorated with flags and paint," Baird said.

The participants were also asked

SU's mission and purpose analyzed

Michael Baldwin
Staff Writer

Most students were certainly aware that there would be no day classes on April 26 because of Mission Day.

What most were not aware of, it seemed, was what Mission Day actually represents. The general student response was one of apathy, but a number of students asking questions prompted a survey.

Out of 30 students asked what Mission Day represented, 13 admitted outright ignorance. Of the remaining 17, seven students guessed it was a religious holiday, eight said they did not care as long as there was no class, and two guessed it was a forum on how Catholic conversion missions were going around the world.

Those were all wrong. Very wrong, in fact.

In case you are counting, that means that 0 percent of a sample of Seattle University's student population knew what Mission Day was.

So what is the true meaning behind this day of mystery?

"Mission Day is a day of reflection about issues that are central to the University's mission," said Father Peter Ely, S.J., rector of the Jesuit Community and former VP of Mission and Ministry.

The day is meant to provide staff, faculty and students with a chance to discuss and raise the consciousness of certain issues. This year's theme focused on brokenness around the world, while

last year chose to focus on the arts.

Contrary to what has been reported in the past, the day is not meant to influence the University's core mission in any way; that mission always remains the same. The day simply allows for staff and faculty to voice their concerns, stay current with goings on at the campus and attempt to raise consciousness about those issues.

Zero percent of a sample of Seattle University's student population knew what Mission Day was.

Another part of the mystery surrounding the forbidden day is that students did not seem to be allowed into the festivities. This is not the case, says Ely.

"We would like to see more students involved," he said. "But, unfortunately, most do not know anything about it."

Ely guessed that there were 30 students present in the crowd of over 600 that turned out to Connelly Center for the event. Ely said he feels the student participation could stand to grow, but that the overall turnout was "pretty darn good."

Beyond the puzzlement of what is actually being conducted during Mission Day, was the all-encom-

passing confusion on why classes that began before 4:30 p.m. were cancelled, but those after that time were not. Even most faculty could not answer why, as shown by Father Ely's lack of a response to the question.

Although the grumblings from the students who happen to have those classes that began after 4:30 were loud, John Eshelman, Seattle University's provost, said that all cancellations are taken into account when making the scholarly schedule for the quarter, and that all classes were designed to have a balance.

Most night classes are graduate classes that only meet once a week; therefore, canceling them eliminates an entire week of classes. Canceling day classes, on the other hand, only eliminates one day.

"It is much easier to add a day or two at the end of the quarter than to add a whole week," said Eshelman. "Scheduling around holidays and other special days is a greater challenge with evening classes."

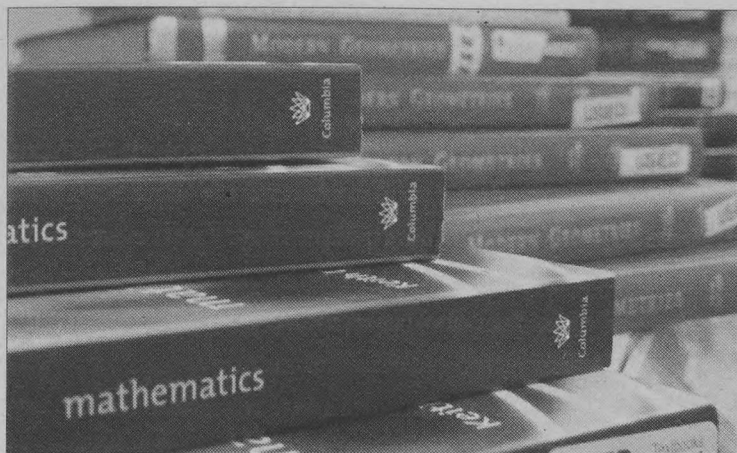
The answer may seem a bit complicated to some. There is the point that some day classes are graduate classes and that so night classes meet twice a week.

Eshelman agrees that his strategy is "not a perfect solution," but says that the current system is "preferable to applying the same rules to all class schedules."

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Law aims to bring down book prices

Michael Lis-Sette
Volunteer Writer



Julie Ignacio

The Spectator

The price of textbooks has always been a point of contention among college students, with pocketbooks often uncomfortably lighter when they are leaving a bookseller.

According to some estimates, students spend an average of \$900 a year on textbooks, which equals about 20 percent of tuition at a typical university, and a full 50 percent of tuition at a community college.

However, on April 21, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law the College Textbook Transparency Act, which might just leave wallets around Seattle University and other schools a little bit heavier come the start of the next academic year.

The law requires publishing companies to fully disclose all pertinent information regarding the content and price of the textbooks they publish to professors. As per the requirements of this new law, this information will be provided as a part of the standard marketing materials that are viewed by instructors when selections are being made.

It should be noted that students of Washington State themselves had a hand in crafting the bill. One of those students is Bryce McKibben, a sophomore at the University of Washington and the director of Government Relations for the Associated Students group there.

He explained that "I think in the long run what we're looking for in the terms of this bill are giving teachers the tools they need to keep costs down," said McKibben.

"There are two main ways to keep costs down: generating price competition between the publishers by having those prices available and

having the faculty knowledgeable about them," he added.

In addition to McKibben, the advocacy group WashPIRG was active in drafting the bill initially submitted to both houses of the State legislature. This bill was actually adapted from bills previously submitted to the state legislatures of Massachusetts and California by sister chapters of WashPIRG.

According to their mission statement, the public-interest group WashPIRG is dedicated to "persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects our environment, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government."

As would be expected, the bill's passing has been met with enthusiasm from students.

"[I think] it's a great idea," said Nick Acosta, junior humanities for teaching major. "A lot of times when you go to sell back a book they're using a new edition next year, and so you don't get as much money back and the student buying the new book would have to pay more."

Students are not the only ones pleased by what might be accomplished by this new law.

"This is an excellent way for pro-

fessors to better understand the burden of students in classes," said Kara Heinrichs, professor of communications studies. "Sometimes we pick a book that we think won't be too expensive, but when it lands on the shelves the cost is astronomical."

At the same time, not everyone is as pleased with what this new law promises to accomplish.

"It's basically feel-good legislation," said Robert R. Spencer, the current manager of the Seattle University Book Store, "there's no real actionable substance to it."

Instead, Spencer says, the problem lies with faculty members.

"The heart of the issue is that faculty are responsible for choosing their textbooks, and faculty are frequently forgetting to get their orders in on time," he said. "If faculty get orders in on time, students can save up to 62 percent on their textbooks."

This law is not scheduled to go into effect until July 22. It is unclear whether or not this will have any substantial impact on book prices when students return in fall quarter.

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ASSU election results



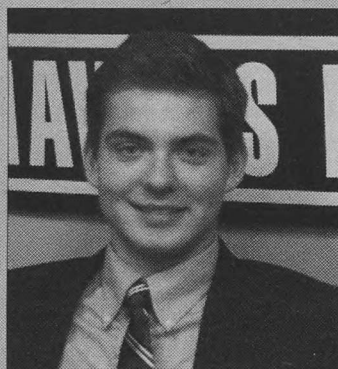
Aaron Yoon
ASSU President



DuWayne Andrews Jr.
Executive Vice President



Natalie Sheils
Vice President of Student Affairs



Kai Smith
Vice President of Finance

President

Steve Lombardi
Aaron Yoon

Executive Vice President

DuWayne Andrews, Jr.

Vice President of Student Affairs

Natalie Sheils

Vice President of Finance

Min Kim
Jonathan Quackenbush
Kai Smith

Senior Representative

Zach Waud

Junior Representative

Emmanuelle Escandar

Sophomore Representative

Jorge Tapia

Athletic Representative

Zach Francis

At-Large Representative

Matisse Fletcher

Commuter Representative

Michael Imeson Harvey

International Representative

Hyun kee (Sean) Min

Minority Representative

Enrique Cabrera-Caban

Non-Traditional Representative

Erik Nielsen

Residential Representative

Rochelle LeMieux
Shana Yem

Events geared at increasing awareness

"I want people to understand that everyone is welcome. These are not 'gay' events," said Triangle Club vice president of events Jenny Graves, freshman civil engineering major. "We need campus-wide support at the events, or else they would be a complete waste of time."

We realize that some things are controversial," he added.

Wilkinson also said it's important that these events aren't seen as just "a gay thing."

"It's for everyone," he said. "We want to make sure everyone feels comfortable to be able to go to it."

"It'll be a great way for people to celebrate the end of the year," he continued. "I'm hoping this starts up a very long standing and very good tradition at SU."

Wilkinson also added he's started to book the rooms for next year's events, but his immediate focus is on extending the audience of these events beyond the queer community, which he said is essential for the success of the month, and particularly for the Old Hollywood themed Drag Show on May 12.

George Bayuga, freshman international studies and history major, helped with publicizing some of the events, including the Drag Show,

which he said he's most excited to see.

"Being a first year student, I never expected things like this in college. Things are more progressive than I thought they were," said Bayuga. "Pride month is about dialogue, but it's also a place where people can listen or ask questions. It's going to be a safe environment and we'll have some really awesome entertainers, and of course, there's going to be lots of free food."

The Drag Show will be another first for SU, after the last scheduled drag show was cancelled a couple years ago, according to Wilkinson.

While the Drag Show may be controversial to some on campus, Triangle Club members emphasized the show will be tasteful and comfortable for participants.

"We want to show [the administration] we're capable of running something that adheres to Jesuit values and is tasteful. The last thing we want is to make people feel uncomfortable," said Wilkinson. "We're trying to show people who have never seen a drag show before what good can come out of a drag show and the cultural and educational significance it has, but it will still be in your face. It will

still be fun. We want to make sure they have the best time."

Even though some of the events might expose a new culture to students, Bayuga said he hopes "this month helps make SU a more comfortable campus for everyone. I think this month will provide a great channel for people to find the meaning of diversity outside of a purely racial context."

These events aim to create dialogue and foster stronger ties on campus, but the events need attendees.

"If you really want to get in touch with the entire SU community you have to go and experience it all," Wilkinson said. "This is a great way to get involved and a great way to understand where we're coming from. We're a part of the community, too."

The events of Pride Month will continue on Tuesday May 8 when Senator Ed Murray discusses Gay Rights in America. Continuing with week's Political Activism theme, an ASSU-sponsored Condoms on Campus Forum will be Thursday May 10. The Drag Show, on May 12, closes out the week.

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As the United States prepares for the most expensive election in its history, Seattle University recently finished up its own elections. Though stickers printed off in dorm rooms and wrapped around pencils is a far cry from the war chest Hilary Clinton has prepared, 2007's ASSU elections were no less important to the student body.

Much of the drama surrounding the election came in the Presidential race between junior journalism major Steve Lombardi and next year's president junior finance major Aaron Yoon. Yoon won by roughly 24 votes out of the nearly 1,000 students who voted.

During the election, Yoon went door to door in the dormitories, an illegal campaign tactic, though it has been allowed in previous years. Unable to campaign during the voting period, Yoon still managed to win.

"I never purposefully or

knowingly broke any bylaws," said Yoon. "But it turns out I did."

When asked if he felt Yoon would do a remarkable job as ASSU president, Lombardi replied, "Sure."

Kai Smith, junior political science and history double-major, will be next year's Vice President of Finance.

"I'm excited," said Smith. "I want to streamline the budgeting process and make it more transparent. I also want to make it easier to understand how clubs can get money."

Smith also wants to create a scholarship for working students so they can spend more time engaged in activities on campus.

Freshman pre-major Rochelle Lemieux beat Shana Yen to become next year's Residential Representative.

Those were the only races. All unopposed candidates won their respective positions.

Reporting by Sean Toway, photos by Julie Ignacio.

Jan Olivia Rowe

Family, friends, colleagues, and students mourn the death of Dr. Jan Rowe who died on Sunday, April 22 in Seattle. Jan Rowe was born in Statesboro, Georgia, in 1947. She received her BA in psychology, her Masters in Community Counseling, as well as her doctorate in counseling psychology from Georgia State University. In 1982, Jan Rowe joined the psychology faculty at Seattle University where she was chair of the department for ten years and subsequently became director of the graduate program in existential-phenomenological psychology.

Dr. Rowe was a dedicated and skilled clinician who provided supervision for graduate students for over twenty years, and taught courses on psychotherapy for both undergraduate and graduate students. She was a co-founder of the Psychotherapy Cooperative in Seattle which provides affordable therapy to the community. As a researcher she was a pioneer in developing a collaborative approach to qualitative research and in studying the experience of forgiveness.

Above all, she will be remembered for the depth of her humanity and her down-to-earth wisdom. She is survived by her sisters Jill Rowe of Decatur, Georgia and Joy Barnes, her brother-in-law Al Barnes; nephew Todd Barnes of Oakland, California, niece Dhia Barnes and great niece Soleil Jordan of New York City, as well as many other family members and loved ones. Jan Rowe will be greatly missed in the Seattle University Psychology Department Community.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Psychotherapy Cooperative, 2711 E Madison Street, Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98112 or a charity of your choice.

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World of Warcraft: Hobby or addiction?

Joey Anchondo
Volunteer Writer

Two and a half years ago Charlie Mackey, junior finance and economics major, saw his friend playing the online gaming phenomenon World of Warcraft (WoW) and assumed it would be a terrible waste of time.

Today, Mackey plays WoW with the same commitment and devotion that most have to a full-time job. His computer is equipped with a booming sound system, headphones with a microphone attachment and two monitors hooked up to his computer, all of which make his 30-40 hours of gaming per week as smooth as possible. The monitor on the right always plays the game, while the monitor on the left can either be used to play a second character or to browse message boards and guides to give tips on how to complete virtual quests.

While Mackey says that this game is just a hobby for him, many believe that MMORPG's (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games) like WoW can become a dangerous addiction. While it is difficult to prove whether online gaming is addictive in the same sense as drugs or alcohol, research shows that there are striking similarities between the two.

In a 2002 study titled "Measuring Problem Video Game Playing in Adolescents," researcher Tejeiro Salguero states that "results confirm that the excessive use of video games is associated with a number of problems which resemble a dependence syndrome."

Mackey admits to occasionally skipping classes after staying up all night playing WoW. He also says that he has missed social engagements, such as dinners, to stay in and play.

"The constant reward is what keeps people playing," Mackey says. There is always something to gain, or a new quest to complete.

Many players find it too hard to walk away from this constant reward. But one website, www.wow-detox.com, encourages players to anonymously post their reason for "putting down the World of Warcraft pipe." There are hundreds of stories from people who have succeeded in quitting the game permanently, and how that decision has benefited them.

"Since I've quit, I sleep better, I work out again, my house is clean, I'm clear headed and I can hold a conversation with a girl without wondering if she'll tolerate my WoW playtime," said one former player.

However, there are also stories from those whose lives have been hurt by the game, and they are not all from college-aged men.

"Over the months, I have seen our children do bad in school, our marriage start to fall apart, my job suffer and my most important job as a mother fail miserably," one woman player said.

In fact, some gamers get so wrapped up in their online gaming pursuits that the result is a close parallel to that of a drug overdose. There have been many deaths in the past six years attributed to the abuse of MMORPG's.



Joey Anchondo

Special to The Spectator

Charlie Mackey, junior finance and economics major, works from two monitors as he plays World of Warcraft in his apartment. Mackey estimates that he logs on to the game for about 40 hours a week.

In August, 2005, Lee Seung Seop, a Korean man, died of heart failure that was triggered by exhaustion and dehydration after playing WoW and Starcraft, another MMORPG, for nearly 50 consecutive hours, according to a Times Online article.

There have also been several instances of suicide following long gaming sessions, such as the 13-year-old Chinese boy who jumped 24 stories to his death after playing WoW for 36 hours. Another instance of death, indirectly related to WoW, happened in June 2005 after two South Korean parents left their four-month-old at home while they played WoW at an internet café. When they returned five hours later, their child was dead from suffocation.

It's the social aspect
of the game that ties it
together.

John Bain

Owner, World of Warcraft Radio

Elizabeth Woolley, mother of Shawn Woolley, who took his own life in 2001 after a session of then-popular MMORPG Everquest, started a website called On-Line Gamers Anonymous. The site includes a 12-step program to help people overcome excessive game play.

This increasing (though on the whole still rare) number of tragedies has led to speculation about how safe MMORPG's really are to play. It is an unsettled debate whether or not they are actually addictive, though The National Institute of Media and the Family says that "when time spent on the computer, playing video games or cruising the Internet reaches a point that it harms a child's or adult's family and social relationships, or disrupts school or work life, that person may be caught in a cycle of addiction."

By this definition, Mackey could potentially be considered addicted to WoW. However, he says that he does not always feel the allure to play and can control the amount of time he puts in each week. Mackey sometimes takes a few days off just from

boredom. He even quit for about two months before the expansion pack came out this January.

Mackey's roommate, Ross Taylor, senior business management major, is more skeptical.

"When the expansion pack came out, he probably played 70 hours that week," Taylor said.

Mackey says that he plays so much because he has the time, but if he decided to get a job, he would cut down accordingly.

But a job where he was near a computer would be optimal.

"I would still like a job where I can sit at a desk and play while I work," Mackey added. On occasion, Mackey multi-tasks while playing the game on a laptop during class.

For many WoW players, the allure goes beyond the game and into the social realm. Mackey uses headphones and a microphone to communicate with other players within his guild, or team.

"It's the social aspect of the game that ties it together. The very game itself is designed around needing to make connections to people," said John Bain, owner of World of Warcraft Radio, during a discussion at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Ariz. "Are the people playing the game for the game anymore or are they really playing for the community? The answer is a little bit of both."

Mackey says that he is not one who gets too involved in the social aspect of it.

"I do it for myself," he said.

Other players in his guild are different, and are continually chatting. Blasting out of Mackey's speakers some of the players chat about the game, but also occasionally about personal issues.

"I didn't know you had brothers," one player said to another.

"They don't play WoW, therefore I don't acknowledge their existence," the second player responded jokingly.

When these advanced players discuss the game, though, it is hardly decipherable to a newbie (game talk for "newbie"). For example, Mackey's guild leaders had a long discussion about their members "AFKing while they're PVPing," or being away from their keyboard while they are in combat with another player.

"We usually have about five raids in a week, and they can last three to four hours each," Mackey said. His guild leaders require 70 to 80 percent attendance rate of the members to keep from getting demoted. Mackey's guild is the highest ranked in its server, and getting accepted into it is not easy. New members must apply on the guild's website, provide references from other players that know them and go through an interview process.

Many believe that it is unhealthy for people to take a computer game this seriously. Bain would disagree. He says that the merits of the game lie in the social skills that can be learned through team play.

"WoW is an incredibly social game," he said during his lecture at UAT. "Now, compared to other hobbies, that is actually a very healthy thing."

He even believes that its international appeal can promote understanding between cultures. Mackey says that there are several players in his 47-member guild from other countries such as Canada and Australia, but most are from the west coast.

The cost of the game can go beyond the monthly \$15 fee if the player is serious enough. Many players buy "gold," which is "farmed" by other players to be sold on the Internet. People who perform simple, repetitive tasks over long periods of time produce the gold, which is used as a currency in the game. The price of gold has gone up over the past year as the risk of getting caught by the WoW manufacturer has increased. If one is caught in a transaction of gold involving real currency, the offenders will be banned from the game. Mackey estimates that he has spent roughly \$100 on gold since he started playing WoW.

When a player finally gives the game up, for whatever reason, they can potentially turn their gaming time into a profit. Mackey estimates that he could fetch between \$200 and \$600 for one of his four characters. For the amount of time put into this game, though, making money through MMORPG's is still not a viable source of income in the American economy.

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Digital infrastructure at SU

Mike Magidman
Staff Writer

A little over a week ago, in the wake of Virginia Tech, Public Safety issued a test of Seattle University's e-mail emergency notification system. Everyone with a SU Outlook Web Exchange account should have received this e-mail.

The test appears to have been successful, but in the recent weeks some of the e-mails sent by Fr. Sundborg that were intended for the entire campus failed to reach at least a few of their targets. This glitch prompts an inquiry as to how exactly the email system at SU works and how are certain errors accounted for. Pursuit of these answers serves as a reminder that the seemingly simple tools often taken for granted may actually be far more complicated than once thought.

Tucked away in a secure corner of the engineering building the server room houses the monumental machines that make the entire SU network possible. Every month some of these servers sort through about six million e-mails coming from the Internet alone. This does not include e-mails sent out to the Internet and e-mails sent between users on the Outlook Web Exchange servers. Out of these nearly six million e-mails approximately five to five and a half million are spam that are (for the most part) promptly sorted out.

The numbers and technicalities can be daunting, but it is easiest to

think of the e-mail system as three-tiered.

The master database is like a large filing cabinet that contains all the information about students, staff, etc. on campus. It knows what classes students are taking, whether they have paid their tuition and often even what their address is. This database is known as the colleague system.

The next database, known as the active directory environment, acts almost like a bouncer guarding the file cabinet. It swaps information with the colleague system, provides security and acts as an intermediary between the colleague system and the other applications of the network like the e-mail service, SU Online and Angel.

Last in the hierarchy is the exchange server. This contains address books and mailing lists, and serves as the interface for sending and receiving e-mail.

In order to e-mail a larger number of people quickly and efficiently, mailing lists are created. These lists are composed from a sort of master list and the resulting sub-lists are stored on the exchange server. Only the appropriate user with qualifying credentials can modify the lists. For example, the editor-in-chief could change the contents of the mailing list for The Spectator as a new staff member is hired. Then the next time someone sent an e-mail to The Spectator mailing list the new employee would automatically receive that e-mail.

While many mailing lists are edited and maintained by users, some mailing lists are automatically updated. For example, if a student transferred to a different university, the colleague system would alter its content automatically as the registrar's office processed the information. Then the colleague system would communicate to the exchange server through the active directory environment and the student's name would be removed from all automatic mailing lists.

So the e-mails from Sundborg (and others like it) that didn't reach some of the intended targets failed to do so most likely because the would-be recipients' names were not on the particular list. This begs the question: couldn't this be problematic in the event that an emergency e-mail was distributed and didn't reach some people?

Hypothetically yes, however, this is not likely to happen. There is a list that is updated automatically and contains the names of everyone who has a SU Outlook Web Exchange account (students, staff, faculty, Bon Appetit employees, etc.) and this list is only accessible to OIT and Public Safety. So in an emergency Public Safety would only need to send an e-mail to that list and it would most assuredly be universally received, provided that everyone on campus was sitting in front of their computer.

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Governor signs law for domestic partners

Chris Kissel
Staff Writer

Seattle University School of Law professor Lisa Brodoff and her partner Lynn Grotzky hope that one day their relationship will receive the respect they say it deserves. Thanks to a new law passed through the Washington state senate, their hopes might soon be fulfilled.

Governor Christine Gregoire signed into state law last Saturday a bill that will create a registry of domestic partnerships in Washington. Much like a marriage license, the registry provides gay and lesbian couples with rights long denied to them under the state constitution.

Among the rights now guaranteed is the right to make serious healthcare decisions on behalf of one's partner, the right to visit their partner in the hospital and the right to automatic inheritance without a will.

The new law, which will go into effect on July 21, also applies to unmarried senior citizens, whose heterosexual relationships can also be listed on the registry, as long as one of the partners is at least 62 years of age.

"Those are important rights, ones that come up around health emergencies and death, where traditionally domestic partners have had no rights under current law," said Brodoff.

Brodoff and Grotzky, a social worker who operates in the Olympia area, have been together for 26 years. They have a 20-year-old daughter and a 17-year-old son, who were both legally adopted.

"This legislation has been critical to us," said Brodoff. "It affirms our relationship, it gives us protection that we wouldn't otherwise have in the event of a tragedy in the family, [and] it tells our children that in Washington state our relationship and our family [are] respected."

In 1998, the Washington state Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, a piece of legislation that specified the definition of marriage and limited it to couples with one male and one female. In the years since the statute has passed, the Washington legislature has taken large steps towards giving comprehensive rights to same-sex couples.

In the 10 years since the statute, a lot has happened. Most important among these events is, arguably, the addition of "sexual orientation" to Washington state's anti-discrimination law, which affirms that the state will not tolerate discrimination in housing, employment and other areas.

This issue was brought up again last week when three public-safety employees filed a lawsuit against the City of Bellevue. The city responded to the discrimination suit last Wednesday by saying that it would now offer the same rights to domestic partners that it currently provides to married ones.

The city said it would look to Washington state's new domestic partnership law to determine the criteria for its protection of domestic partners. Throughout the state and the nation, the new law has already begun to draw attention from supporters and critics alike.

"I'm glad that Washington is taking this step in the right direction," said Shawn Wilkinson, co-president of Seattle University's Triangle Club adding that there was "still ground to be covered."

Opponents agree that the law brings the state closer to allowing same-sex marriages, but aren't so sure about the government's new direction.

"I cannot overlook the direction this bill—and others likely to follow—are headed, and that is clearly the redefinition of marriage," said Cheryl Haskins to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Haskins is the director of Allies for Marriage and Family, a group that hopes to keep the definition of marriage to one man/one woman.

The new law was supported by the state senate's five openly gay lawmakers. Some, like Senator Ed Murray, saw the new legislation as progress away from the 1998 statute and toward broader government acceptance of same-sex couples.

"The domestic partnership law reflects a changing state that understands who gay and lesbian people are and the struggles that they go through," said Murray (D - Seattle), who is openly gay. Murray also pointed out that, according to polling, there is more acceptance of gays and lesbians "among a younger demographic."

For Brodoff, it's also about earning respect from the government, respect that married couples have always had.

"[Grotzky and I] have been together longer than a lot of marriages," said Brodoff. "So it's really important to have that confirmation for us, beyond all the rights that have been conferred."

For the next few legislative sessions, advocates like Brodoff expect to see more rights added to the registry, so that some time soon, domestic partners will have the same fundamental rights as married couples. Until then, many gay rights activists are celebrating their new power to deal with the emergency situations, events that threaten to destroy their family life at any time.

"This simply allows our seniors and our same-sex partners to rely on each other and to care for each other when they are faced with life and death situations," said Gregoire at a reception in Olympia, as reported by the Associated Press. "These are the rights of all Washingtonians."

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Dispatches from Cambodia: the final dispatch

Mike Phillips
Volunteer Writer

Bayon Temple, part of the ancient gated city of Angkor Thom, is not nearly as well preserved or restored as its larger brothers like Angkor Wat. I sit between two crumbling pillars in one of the doorways, and I listen to the couple around the corner from me, who are seeking the same thing I am.

"It's crazy, so many bloody people," says their friend who joins them. "South Koreans, man, it's like they're dropping them from planes. They all take the same pictures."

Click, Click, Click.

I can picture his gesture, mimicking the hold and the squint of the photographer, as his friends laugh. "Japanese, Taiwanese, so bloody many."

He's right, in a way. Asian tourists flood the temples, the roads and the city. In guided masses, the swarm over the temples, thousands converging in a few hundred square meters. Then, it's back onto the air-conditioned bus and off to the next temple.

In part, it's the result of proximity. Angkor, and the civilization that created it, were one of the great empires of Asia's recent past, giving it a familiar sort of relevance to nearby nations.

Geographically, it's a short jaunt for many, similar to a weekend getaway to Bangkok or Singapore, two other major destinations in

the region. As a result, a visit to the Temples of Angkor is as normal as a trip to the Grand Canyon or Mount Rushmore. Add the grandeur of those wonders, with the historical significance of America's Jamestown or Peru's Machu Pichu, and you have Angkor Wat.

While the temple's grandeur is breathtaking, the physical spaces within them aren't really all that large. So, when the big white buses role up, it's usually about the right time to leave, even if you yourself just showed up.

Unless, of course, you like to spend your Saturdays stuck, unable to move, in a small corridor with forty other people.

The buses blare their way down what are roads only in the most abstract sense of the word, whisking their fares from one assuredly spiritual experience to the next, where a tour guide gives the troupe, and everyone else favored enough to be nearby, a racing, breathless explanation about anything that there is to be appreciated about their present locale.

Down the road, we see four large, gleaming white buses arrive. The commenter snuffs his cigarette out on the ledge. It's time to go.

The Brit's comments are interesting for more than their hypocrisy about the proper way the temples ought to be enjoyed (apparently they are best served littered, with cigarette butts on the side). For years, the temples of Angkor Wat

were the ultimate destination off the beaten path, an exotic jungle trek on the back of an elephant that few could lay claim to.

No more.

Whether you crave the lawlessness and individuality of yester-year, or welcome the influx of billions of tourist dollars into Cambodia's economy, one thing has to be clear: it's not our decision to make.

With over a million visitors this past year alone, the tensions of rapid growth and change aren't only criticized by Khmer who feel development has passed them by, but perhaps even more angrily by the ex-pats, sex-pats and backpackers who see their playground disappearing.

To them, much of this nation's charm is tied up in what it isn't and what it doesn't have (i.e. laws, rules, effective police and courts, high costs, expectations, etc).

For westerners, Cambodia is the

ultimate exotic travel locale, with treasures hidden deep in the jungle, on the other side of the globe. Those foreigners that come here fall easily into three categories: the tour-groupies, luxury vacationers and the backpackers.

These lads from Britain were almost certainly part of the latter. But a backpacker toting his Deuter or North Face is certainly no less out of place than the Japanese, Taiwanese, or Koreans.

And the backpacker set, who used to find both the beauty and vice that they sought in Cambodia, are perhaps the most vociferous critics of recent changes here. While marijuana-laced "Happy Pizzas" and "Happy Shakes" remain distinctive and available culinary options, regulation and enforcement of drug laws – unthinkable 10 years ago – have become particularly aggressive.

In that same time, enforcement efforts have also disrupted or pushed many of the country's prostitution networks – especially of children – deep underground. Gone too are the days when \$100 was more than enough for a complete Rambo package at the local shooting range: guns, grenades, bazookas, or flamethrowers. Anything was available for the right price. Today, Cambodians all have cellular phones with which to call the police or ambulance, rather than having to fire their AK-47's in the air until help arrives.

These changes have generally been positive and welcomed by

Cambodians: a street where everyone openly carries an assault rifle is certainly more likely to experience random acts of violence and see them escalate, especially when alcohol gets involved.

In the 1990's, that was often the case, and running gun-battles could be heard at all hours of the day. Cambodians are also glad to rid their towns of the scourge of child prostitution, and while ganja has a long history as a culinary ingredient here, its treatment by Khmer is far different than that of the visitors.

Ultimately, whether you crave the lawlessness and individuality of yester-year, or welcome the influx of billions of tourist dollars into Cambodia's economy, one thing has to be clear: it's not our decision to make.

Anyone who can afford to come here, to take the tour bus, or to buy a \$200 to \$300 North Face pack is rightfully looked upon by Khmer the same way: as a tourist. They aren't Khmer, they aren't native, and they certainly aren't any more authentic than anyone else there.

The Japanese, touring Bayon with its massive faces of the Buddha, are hardly likely to be less appreciative of the things they see. The temples belong only to the Cambodians, and no one who comes to see them, when it's all said and done, is anything but a visitor.

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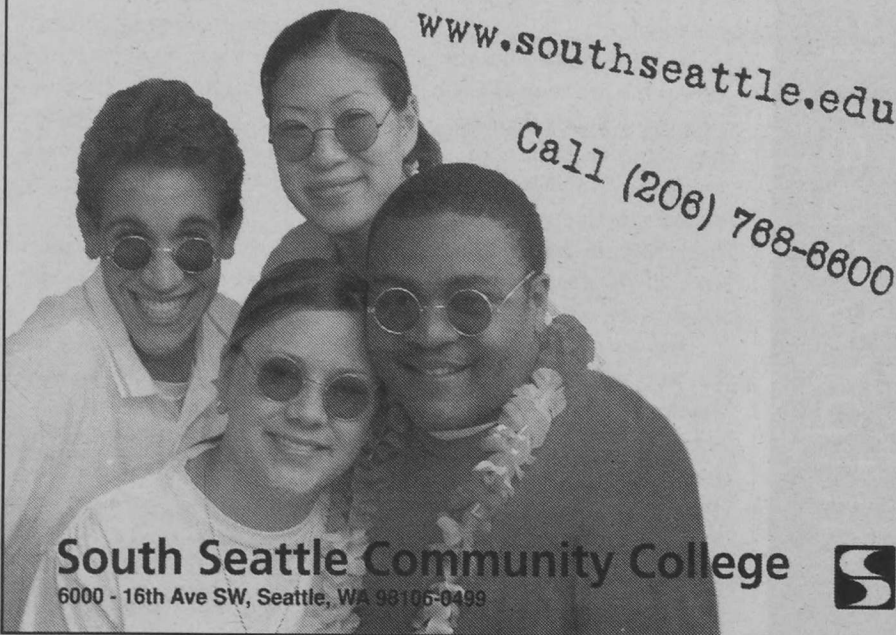
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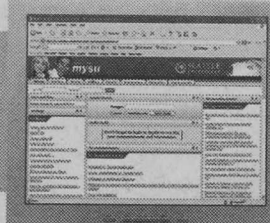
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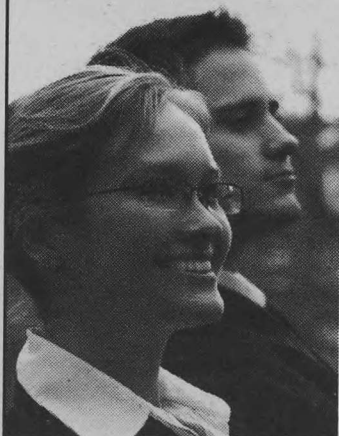
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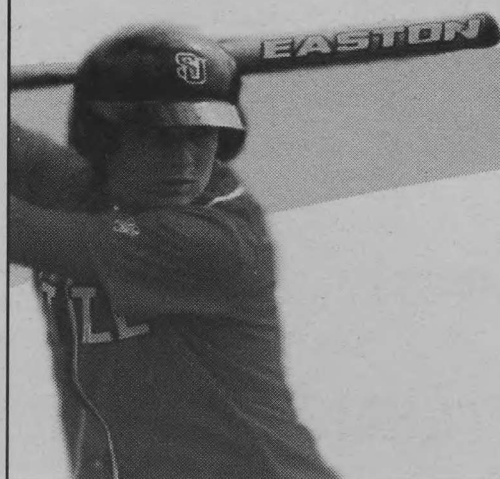
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Mental health funding in decline

Mike Baldwin
Staff writer

The tragedy that occurred on April 16 at Virginia Tech brought the issue of underfunded mental health services to the forefront of many discussions on our college campuses.

The last 25 to 30 years has seen a dramatic increase in the use of both mental health drugs and counseling services, which has put a dramatic strain on the resources of those services.

Dr. Susan Hawkins, director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Seattle University, says that improvements in drugs and other methods of treating mental illness, have allowed people who in the past may have been removed from society, to lead healthy and productive lives within it.

"Both medication and other forms of treatment have become more effective and more widely available," said Hawkins, who also added that the stigmas associated with mental illness have decreased in recent years.

However, funding for mental health services have not kept pace with the increase in use.

In the last 10 years, CAPS has only added one new staff member, while losing volunteer workers who were not part of the yearly budget.

The International Association of Counseling Services, who accredits all counseling services, suggests that the

counseling staff to student ratio be no more than 1,000 to 1. SU's ratio is around 1,450 to 1.

Hawkins notes that in the past this would not have been as big of an issue. But due to cultural changes that have led to increases in cases of depression, such as poor lifestyles and increased pressure on college students, more students are in need of counseling services.

A 2003 survey by the American College Health Association revealed that 94 percent of students reported feeling overwhelmed, while 44 percent reported being so depressed that it was hard to function. These numbers indicate the strain being put on university health services.

Another factor leading to the increase in the use of college mental health services is the fact that many cannot afford the services of private facilities. Those on college campuses can receive that assistance for free.

Recently, CAPS was forced to begin referring students they could not see in a timely fashion to outside private facilities. While outside referral has always been an option, Hawkins said that they have tried to avoid doing so in the past.

"If we cannot see someone within two weeks, we will refer them elsewhere," said Hawkins. "We will not have a waitlist."

However, Hawkins maintains that the people most affected by the lack of funding for counseling services are the everyday students who need support

systems. Those students who do not receive adequate support face a decline in their quality of campus life.

"Without increased funding, we will lose students," said Hawkins. "Talented, smart students won't get the support they need and they will not make it through."

At the extreme level, Hawkins said that the lack of support systems can also lead to future high-profile cases like V-Tech.

"When services do not keep pace with need, we run the bigger risk of someone developing into the perpetrator of a violent crime that could have been prevented."

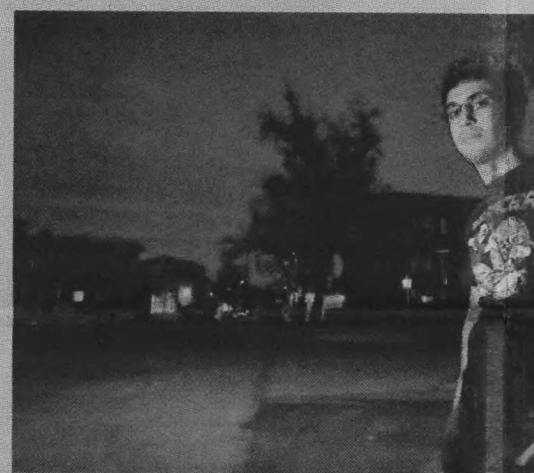
The 2006 National Survey of Counseling Center Directors revealed that one in every 11 students has sought counseling or psychological help within the last year. While funding has increased, it has not kept pace with the need.

Hawkins notes that mental health care services of our campuses are not doomed. Actions are being taken to lessen the strain on campus counseling services.

"There have been dramatic improvements in the quality of mental health services in our country in the last 15 years," said Hawkins. "But the safety net [provided by mental health services] has a lot of holes in it."

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Is violent speech def



Max Karson, a junior from University of Colorado, was arrested on Tuesday, April 17. The junior psychology student was arrested after making a statement in a class where he was with the Virginia Tech killer. Students in his world psychology class reportedly felt scared to attend class after Karson's comments about being "angry enough to kill." Karson was charged with "Interference with staff, faculty or student of an educational institution." He has been suspended from school until the case has been resolved.

The signs of a school killer

Emily Holt
Staff writer

After Columbine, the U.S. Secret Service teamed up with the Department of Education and issued the 2002 Safe School Initiative, a comprehensive study of school shootings that tried to establish patterns among these incidents to attempt to answer difficult questions of what connects these killers.

- Out of the 37 incidents of school attacks from 26 states across the country, all of the incidents were committed by boys or young men.

- Handguns, rifles or shotguns were the primary weapons used.

- More than 75 percent of the attackers had planned the attack out in advance, sometimes that day, and the same percentage had held a grievance prior to the

incident.

- In over 75 percent of the cases, the attacker told someone of the plan—usually a peer and rarely an adult.

- Few of the attackers had been diagnosed with mental disorders prior to the incident and less than one third had histories of drug or alcohol abuse.

- Over two thirds of the cases of school shooters felt persecuted, bullied or threatened prior to the attack.

- In over 75 percent of the incidents the attackers had difficult coping with significant losses.

- Prior to the incident, 75 percent of the attackers had threatened to kill themselves, made suicidal gestures or attempted suicide.

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What to do

Sean Towey
Staff writer

After the shooting at Virginia Tech, there was a lot of talk about security on every college campus in the nation. From talk about students becoming more security-conscious to the efficiency of on-campus security, there is a lot of discussion about how to protect America's students from violence.

However, Lance Corporal Robert Lenfesty has a solution: teach students self-defense tactics so they can better protect themselves.

Lenfesty had recently returned from a tour in Iraq when the shootings happened. He was angry about the act itself, but he didn't have any idea what to do in a situation like that.

"If a couple of those kids had known self-defense, things might have gone differently," Lenfesty said.

Lenfesty is not in favor of teaching students simple defense measures, but simple defense measures

MINCE EFFECT

Addressing student speech in a time of fear

Rose Egge
Staff writer

After the tragedy at Virginia Tech, it was discovered that many people had felt there was something wrong with Cho Seung-Hui before the massacre. He had written violent plays for a creative writing class and made concerning comments to people around him.

At Seattle University, any expression by a student that is considered threatening can be addressed, including statements said to a friend, written in a class or posted online. Faculty members are always asked to share any class work that makes them feel uncomfortable.

"We try to protect a student's right to feel safe, so when that is threatened, that's when we start to move in and have conversations with a student," said Jake Diaz, dean of students.

On occasion, the counseling center has been asked to look at student's written class work or e-mails by concerned faculty members or friends.

"There might be a concern about depression, suicidality, threatening language or a deterioration in psychological functioning," said Susan Hawkins, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). "It can be very helpful to have a team approach to evaluate potential risk indicators."

The university community is encouraged to come forward with issues of concern in hopes of preventing problems from escalating into depression, social isolation, poor health or violent actions.

"You'd hope that [after the Virginia Tech shooting] we've learned lessons of response time and take all threats seriously," said Tim Leary, senior vice president.

Nonetheless, school administration believes that students have the freedom to express their ideas at Seattle University. While students do not share the same first amendment rights that public school students enjoy, there are no plans to censor anything for being provocative.

"My hope is that students would take into

consideration how the things they say and write may have an impact on those around them. But, I wouldn't say for students to police themselves on what they might say or write for a class," said Diaz.

Like many other institutions, members of the Seattle University community have had a heightened awareness since the tragedy at Virginia Tech, the recent shooting at the University of Washington and other violent acts in schools.

"Any tragedy like this raises a lot of questions in people's minds about safety," said Diaz. "[They want] to be certain that they're safe here on campus, and I think that's natural."

Fortunately, Seattle University addressed students who may be a threat to themselves or others before this year's acts of violence.

While there has never been an official policy in addressing students who express threats, there have always been practices.

"It's more about how would we have an educational conversation with that person as opposed to imposing counseling or anything like that," said Rob Kelly, vice president of Student Development.

The Threat Assessment Task Force, a division of the Students of Concern committee, deals solely with students who may have expressed suicidal or other violent thoughts.

The task force is chaired by Diaz and made up of representatives from the Counseling Center, Health Center, Housing and Resident Life, Campus Ministry and more. They have met once a week for the past four years to discuss any situation where a student's safety is at risk.

"As far as what students say or write, any time that [there are] words that threaten lives, we've always taken that very seriously. At the minimum we need to talk about it, find out what the student meant," said Diaz. "We're going to work with it until people feel safe."

The administration at Seattle University is also

confident in the school's resources, including the counseling center, their close relationship with the Seattle East Precinct Police Department and faculty specialists.

"When a situation is brought to our attention or we observe something that is [outside] the code of conduct and our standards, our staff is trained to respond, to engage it, not to dismiss it," said Diaz.

The counseling center often has a major role in addressing students of concern. When a faculty member recommends counseling, students usually appreciate the concern and are willing to go.

"In classes that include journal writing and reflection pieces, an instructor may become aware of some of a student's personal difficulties which naturally leads to an offer of support and referral to resources like CAPS," said Hawkins.

The university never requires that a student receive counseling. CAPS is completely separate from the Student Conduct system, which can require things of students who violate the Student Code of Conduct. But there are ways that a university can encourage a student to see a mental health professional. This occurs very rarely at Seattle University and is more likely to be based on acting out behavior, rather than something that is said or written.

In instances where a criminal activity has taken place, such as stalking, Seattle University often takes advantage of its external resources, such as contacting the police.

In addition to the many practices that were already in place, Fr. Stephen Sunborg SJ., president of Seattle University, recently announced that a new task force will form to look at all university practices regarding safety and security procedures.

"I think there's a willingness on this campus to look at the issues, to continually do things to better protect our university community," said Kelly.

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defendable



Colorado at Boulder
psychology major was
he sympathized
men's studies class
on allegedly made
Karson has pleaded
faculty or students
ed until the judicial

do when you find your self in a deadly classroom situation

for a shooter to kill.

Beyond staying calm, thinking, and looking for the nearest feasible exit, Lenfesty says to find anything that can be used as a weapon.

"Anything can be a weapon," said Lenfesty. "Books, binders, pens, desks, whatever you can throw at the guy to mess him up. Chances are he's not that good of a shot, so little things like that could make him miss."

Also, it is important to resist the urge to bunch up into groups.

"You want to spread out as much as possible," said Lenfesty. "You should really go try and find a place where you'll be by yourself. If you bunch up then you're giving the guy a much bigger target."

Lenfesty argues against being a "hero", and single-handedly attempting to bring the shooter down.

"If you can get out of there safely, then get out of there," said Lenfesty. "If you can't, then your best chance of survival is to regroup the class and work together."

Time is also an important factor. Some of the

classrooms had enough time to realize that the shooter was coming. In those situations, there are other options.

"Barricade the door with anything you've got, the teacher's desk, whatever," he said. "Post a bigger guy by the side of the door, so if he does break through you can try and rush him."

The best chance for survival comes from strong leadership. It takes someone standing up and gaining control to save lives.

"You've got to step up and take control," said Lenfesty. "You've got to rise above the situation. A lot of people don't know if they're a leader, it comes from within. What it boils down to is can you be a leader when rounds are flying?"

Yet, for many civilians, this train of thought is anything but natural. Most students, as can be seen from the Virginia Tech incident, struggle to think creatively under that type of pressure.

"I wouldn't think about throwing a book at them," said Egon Ramelli, a freshman International Business major. "I

think I would blank out and not know what to do."

Natalie Cerda, a freshman business major, largely agreed with Ramelli.

"I would run," said Cerda. "I would be afraid to throw a book, completely miss him and then he decides to shoot me next. I would probably look at the guys and wonder what they would do first."

Though an advocate for giving civilians an education on general military tactics, Lenfesty is completely against students bringing weapons into the classroom.

"It's a learning environment," said Lenfesty. "This isn't an everyday occurrence, there isn't a need."

Also, students might not be trained properly on how to use a weapon, and could potentially kill other students in crossfire or by accident.

"It just creates too much chaos," he said.

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entertainment

Thurs., May 3

Senorita Extraviada:
Femicide in Juarez
 Pigott Auditorium
 6:30 p.m.

Kingspade, Subnoize
Souljaz
 \$15
 7 p.m.
 El Corazon

Arctic Monkeys, Be Your Own Pet
 \$25
 8 p.m.
 The Showbox

!!!, Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects, Telepathy
 \$13
 8 p.m., 21+
 Neumos

Fri., May 4

The Decemberists
 \$27.50
 8 p.m.
 The Paramount

Yard Dogs Road Show, Circus Contraption
 \$18, 21+
 8 p.m.
 The Showbox

Blue Scholars
 \$15
 8 p.m.
 Encore show Sat. night

Sat., May 5

Kaddisfly, Ozma
 \$12
 5 p.m.
 El Corazon

Mon., May 7

Velvet Revolver
 8 p.m., 21+
 SOLD OUT

Don't Miss RENT
 May 8 – 13
 The Paramount

365 Days, 365 Plays
 April 30 – May 6
 Lee Center
 FREE ADMISSION

Annual Spring Student Art Show
 May 2-18
 Vachon Room, Fine Arts building
 FREE ADMISSION

Regina Spektor lends a personal touch

Megan Peter
 Managing Editor

It is sometimes difficult to put into words how good a concert was. You can never find the appropriate adjective and find yourself constantly saying "it was amazing," or "it was so good" but if you had to describe the specific aspects that made it "amazing" and "good" you are at a loss. This was the experience that I had this past Wednesday as I joined a sold-out crowd at the Moore to watch one of my favorite artists, Regina Spektor.

Having been a fan of her music since her major label debut "Soviet Kitsch" (Sire 2004), this concert had to live up to high expectations. But it met every one of them.

While Regina was amazing, however, her opening act left something to be desired.

Only Son is a boy with a guitar and while he is not completely terrible, there was nothing truly special about him either. He was a mumbler, so when he talked in between songs he became inaudible.

The one thing Only Son did have going for him was that his iPod was his back-up band, which gave him some creative points.

But once Regina came on stage, the lackluster opener was soon forgotten. Her quite, shy, cute demure was endearing. She even seemed a bit nervous, but quickly warmed to the crowd that so affectionately welcomed her.

And even when she forgot the lyrics to her song "Ghost of Corporate Future" instead of becoming embarrassed, Spektor readily admitted she knew she would "f--k up" the show, she just didn't know when it would happen. Then it became a group effort as the audience shouted out the lyrics to her and the song continued.

That type of supportive aura surrounded the entire show and sitting in audience you felt as though you were watching a friend perform. You laughed at the humorous lyrics as if they were inside jokes between you, Regina and the couple hundred other people in the audience. You wanted to lay an encouraging

hand on her shoulder, tell her to relax and not be nervous, that she will be wonderful.

Many of the songs that she played that night silenced the audience. Her performance of "Hu-

...sitting in audience
 you felt as though
 you were watching a
 friend perform.

man of the Year" was breath-taking. It was a song that I had never heard before and even the drunk, obnoxious couple sitting next to me couldn't distract from the beautifully written lyrics and melody.

She also performed many of her hits off her recent album "Begin to Hope" (Sire 2006), including "Better" and "Fidelity," both of which sound even better live. Like all the songs she played, each sounded a little different than it does on the

album, which is a good thing. What is the point of paying for a show to watch someone sound exactly like the CD you have at home?

Though Regina was brilliant throughout the entire show, her encore was a highlight for me. It was expected, since she had not performed "Samson" yet, a song that many had come to hear her sing. But it was an incredible encore nonetheless. Regina was joined on stage by Only Son to perform an acapella version of "Hotel Song." Using solely the mics in front of them, they utilized their vocal talents to create the background beats of the song. It was one of the few times of the night when you could hear the whole audience sing along.

While there were still so many songs that I wished she had played and wished that the two most annoying concert go-ers had not sat next me, it will still be remembered as one great show.

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Edward better remembered on screen

Jessica Van Gilder
 Staff Writer

After being exposed to the uncanny brilliance of Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands" as a child, the film seemed untouchable. Edward became a character that occupied his own space in the entertainment world, and I thought to infringe on this film in any aspect would be wrong.

And then, a crouched woman holding a cane struggled to walk across the dark stage. Behind her lightning filled the sky and when the thunder howled the words on the screen behind her reminded the audience of why they were staring at this lost elderly woman, who watched the background apprehensively too.

"There once was a boy named Edward Scissorhands..." flashed on the screen and then Edward danced onto the stage. Yes, he danced, well scuttled shyly.

Just like Burton captured complexity in simplicity, director and renowned choreographer Matthew Bourne reinterpreted the classic into a dance theater performance, where talking would just make the show too easy to follow.

Bourne distinguished himself in the entertainment arena with recreations of Swan Lake, which he won the Tony Award for Best Director and Best Choreographer of a Musical in 1999. Bourne also recently choreographed Mary Poppins, the hit musical that is currently on Broadway.

In addition to these accomplishments, Bourne's musical Play Without Words also won several awards and showcased Bourne's talents for telling a story through detailed

movement and expressive choreography.

But I doubt the play will ever live up to the movie.

Even with amazing choreography and music compositions, Bourne merely entertains the audience instead of capturing the story Burton created.

The performance follows the story of a lost boy who is deserted after his creator dies and attempts to be integrated into a 1950s era suburban nightmare. While the neighborhood finds Edward fascinating at first, they quickly turn against him and decide they can't accept Edward. But when the neighbors start rejecting Edward, Kim Boggs's feelings for Edward continue to grow throughout the play in a Romeo and Juliet style of unfortunate love.

Instead of speaking or singing, Bourne channeled his eccentric talents into making every movement on stage count. Edward's fragile and timid character flinched and shuffled around the stage, in a remarkable likeness to Johnny Depp's performance in the film.

Without speaking any words, sometimes the characters gestures talked to the audience. Sometimes every character spoke through synchronized dances, but the most remarkable chemistry with the audience was established through Edward, played by Sam Archer and the contemporary dance scenes.

The lengthy scissors attached to Edward's hands gleamed in every scene, and Archer scratched the metal extensions together in sync with the music or sometimes, just to add his own soundtrack to the scene.

Edward told his story in every facial expression, every flinch and

every timid smile, but that connection and storyline was often broken. Too many performers danced on stage in certain scenes, blocking the incredibly detailed and authentic stage settings. While the audience laughed continually, the conversion of the storyline into theater wasn't as smooth as it could've been.

Bourne devoted a good deal of Act One to creating a background for the audience, and while the synchronized and comical dance performances entertained, some of the scenes lacked clarity.

Edward is abandoned after cruel teenagers from the suburbia down the hill literally scare Edward's creator to death in a scene that is marked by a rush of interpretive movement that asks too much from the audience in order to follow the scene.

But Bourne recovers himself in the scene after the Boggs family takes Edward in. Archer performs the subtleties of Edward's character that make the audience laugh and reach out and hug him. He perfects melding comedy with a touch of pity perfected in the scene where he stares fixated at Kim Boggs' pink bedroom, confused and engrossed by life-size pictures of Kim on the wall.

Keeping with the character though, instead of slicing open a waterbed accidentally like in the film, Edward manages to start the music box on the dresser, which sets him off into another frightened frenzy around the room.

Bourne's version of the story relays the delicacy and intensity of the characters' expression through movement and expression in a way words alone could not. He captures Burton's immeasurable sense of por-

traying a complex character through simplicity.

Bourne's choreography in the Topiary Garden scene supported Bourne's reputation of his ability to create a connection with the audience through telling a story with a harmonized musical background and meaningful movement.

One of the few memorable moments of the musical happened when Edward's infamous hedge sculptures come to life in a highly emotional scene between Edward and Kim, the audience was immediately engrossed in the dancing hedges who wind their way around Edward and Kim, drawing on human emotions through powerful contemporary dancing.

The last memorable scene inevitably stems from Joyce Monroe's character, the sad redheaded woman screaming for attention against the "perfection" that characterized the 1950s suburbia in the film. In her efforts to entice Edward, Bourne excels in blending comic relief in the characters suggestive and witty movements.

But after this scene, Bourne's adaptations from the film's storyline obscure the meaning of the story. The dancers continue to entertain, as does Archer (Edward), but without his performance the musical isn't notable.

Especially for sincere fans of the breakthrough film, the theater performance acts as a side dish that will likely leave the audience's memory before long, separating it from the film made 17 years ago that continues to resonate with old and new audiences today.

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Coachella craziness: a backstage experience

► Cyclecide Bike Rodeo from San Francisco had carnival rides made out of bikes that used only energy from pedaling. I rode on a two-person ride called Flight of the Bumblebee, which was a bike in the air conducted by the Cyclecide clowns. I continued to walk and say rows of solar powered sunflowers that swayed from the energy from the sun.

The Comedians of Comedy was the first act that I saw. I sat and laughed, until I got a call from a friend to meet him at the main entrance of Coachella; that was also the last time my cell phone worked. I sat for an hour as he waited in line to get inside. Security that padded down the crowd were real policemen from Riverside. Buff men that grabbed at every part of the grab to make sure nothing got inside the festival.

As I sat and watched the line, people were dropping from the heat. Girls in line would suddenly fall to the ground and policemen would rush through the lines to pick them up and send them to the First Aid. Eyes rolled back and friends were yelling for their friends to come back from their dehydration episodes. I watched and sat next to about ten people in that hour go through the same panic. Yet thankfully, all recovered well.

We went to see a few minutes of Perry Farrell's new band Satellite Party on the Coachella main stage. Farrell is the only artist that has



Jackie Canchola The Spectator
Lead singer Mike Patton of Peeping Tom performing Saturday night.

played every Coachella, even though he created Lollapalooza. After his band performed, I went back to the RV to get some free water from the ice cooler. Water was the hot, essential item and this year, the festival made a deal with the crowd: if the crowd picked up 10 empty bottles of water to recycle, they get free water back. I have never been to an outdoor festival that was so clean you can see the grass.

Hours passed as the sun went down and Peeping Tom was to appear at the Virgin Mega store tent for signing. This was my second attempt in one week to chase down the lead singer Mike Patton and give him the biggest kiss in the world.

He was meant to stay for an hour for signing, so I decided to check out the up and coming sensation Amy Winehouse, a vocalist with a sultry, Billy Holiday type of voice. The minutes as I watched her, Mike



Jackie Canchola The Spectator
In the field the crowd could walk by artists constantly performing in stunning costumes and makeup.

Patton was signing away.

I got in line 15 minutes later and took out every piece of fan memorabilia to be touched by Patton. I watched him from a few people back and until he suddenly got up, waved his hands like a fool, left the area and me. My heart broke as I fell to the grass and laid there as the crowd stepped over me.

My friends were coming, but when? Was I doomed to have the worst weekend of my life because Patton had my love radar on and avoided it, again? As I laid with my limbs spread like a flatten Jumping Jack, I looked up at a pair of legs about to step over my head. The man looked down at me and said "Everything will be alright," and he continued walking as if nothing happened. I jumped up like the Jumping Jack that I am and ran to see Peaches play instead of mope.

Peaches played at the same time as the reunited Jesus and Mary Chain. This was the first of many hard decisions. I saw Peaches perform since I knew I'd be dancing and laughing. Former porn star Ron Jeremy announced Peaches as she came out in a skimpy outfit and screamed and hollered into the mic to get everyone to dance. She offered to take off her metallic silver panties if everyone will sing with her. She yelled louder as she pulled down the panties to reveal another set of panties. She asked, "Now?" as she pulled down the next pair to show the same metallic silver panties.

Until the seventh pair, she was satisfied and kicked up the pairs towards the drum set. As she sang, she launched herself towards the steel pillars on the stage. With the mic in her hand and 12-hole Adidas shoes on her feet, she proceeded to climb. Nearly 20 feet up, she held herself with one arm and foot as she swayed and sang to amaze the already crazed fans.

Jesus and Mary Chain played at the main stage as I walked past them to dance to Benny Benassi. I heard my favorite song and one of their classics, "Just like Honey" playing in the night air and noticed a female voice perform in the background. There, standing in a funny hat, was Scarlet Johansson singing like she did in her movie "Lost in Translation." Freaked, I left and danced with Benassi.

I sat on the grass and watched Interpol perform on the two giant screens. The masses were moving onwards to the main stage to get

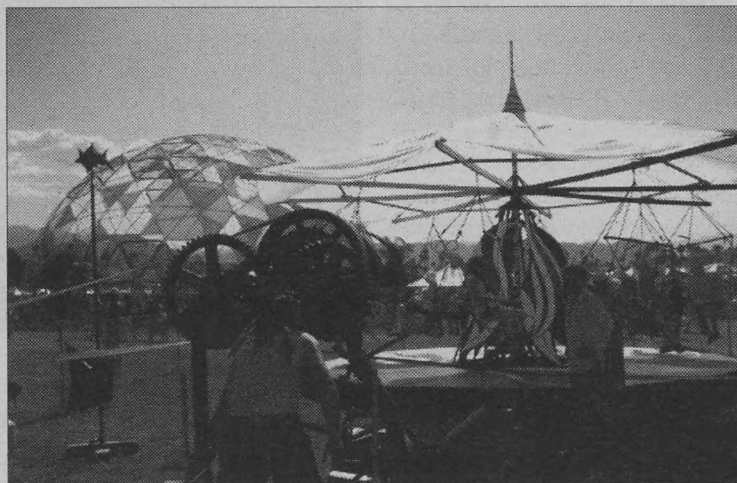
a good spot for Friday's headliner Bjork to perform. This was another dilemma, be in the back to watch Bjork or get smashed up to one of my favorite bands Gogol Bordello. I choose Gogol because this was a guaranteed energetic, fantastic show.

The Gypsy Punks will never disappoint for they even sound checked their own instruments. I'll admit it now, but it was the best performance of the weekend. Let's just say: costumes, energy, fiddles, crowd surfing on drum set and lead singer Eugene Hutz spitting in his hands and used the spit as hair gel and ear wax for his mustache.

The night ended and people in the parking lot stood for hours. The police closed down the second road to get out for emergency vehicles only. Friends didn't get back to their hotels until 5 a.m. because of the night traffic.

Next day, we came later since the first band my friends and I wanted to see was Hot Chip. The whole tent was already packed when it occurred to me: this was the real sold-out crowd that came to Coachella weekend. I attempted to dance, but there was no way to see the band. I left for the RV when Randali gave me another pass. I was upgraded to Side-Stage wristband. This was the same wristband all the musicians got during the festival.

I used the side pass to get on



Jackie Canchola The Spectator
Cyclecide Bike Rodeo from San Francisco came with their bike carnival. The pedal carousel was free for all to enjoy everyday in the field.

stage to the five out of six stages. The main stage had its own pass so it was off limits for me, so they thought. The pass made me impatient during the bands and I only watched a few songs of Peter Bjorn & John, !!!, Andrew Bird, and Blonde Redhead. A friend and I danced as if we were trying to put out fire with our feet and flaring arms during the Arcade

Fire set.

After the set, I used the new pass and jumped on the golf carts that taxied all the musicians to the VIP lounge and dressing rooms. I pretended to be in the band The Frames and went along for the rides backstage. The driver took me to the backstage right before RHCP and they ran pass us to get on stage in front of at least 30,000 people. We watched the first song and drove off to the artist lounge.

I got a few Red Bulls and walked into an area with a ping pong table. I realized I walked into the Arcade Fire after party. The singers were standing next to me talking about computer chips. I got nervous and ran off.

I was late to LCD Soundsystem and attempted to catch the next golf cart taxi. A man in front of me catches one and I asked to hitch a ride. He turned around and Danny DeVito himself said yes to your faithful writer. We rode the high life, talked about Indian food and how we attended the last four Coachella festivals. Danny told me to eat at Baba G's vendor for some of the best Indian food he ever tasted. I trusted him, got dropped off at the vendor area, found my friend from home and got Indian food.

I wanted to take a picture with the owner and grabbed onto him and the guy he was talking to. I didn't realize until a friend pointed out that the man I grabbed onto was actor and director Vincent Gallo.

Weird.

The night ended with world famous DJ Tiesto, whose set was cut short by Red Hot Chili Peppers. What a crime.

Sunday consisted with about 60,000 fans roaming the polo fields. I arrived in a random parking lot in the back and got lost. I ended up in a beautiful rose garden that was completely deserted. I didn't know how to get out of this area unless retraced my steps. I found the chopped up golf balls in the grass and ran.

I got a ride from a taxi golf cart and met up with my best friend. We talked during Explosions in the Sky and laughed at her younger sister

a nobody I was. Everyone there was famous and "so LA". They were just there to look good and pretend to know people. It's a sad reality when you see musicians and celebrities you may have looked up to end up being just jerks.

Thus I went to see my friends and saw Rage Against the Machine in the VIP area. Even in the pan-



Jackie Canchola The Spectator
Early morning on Saturday, campers prepared with sunblock and minimum clothing.

oramic view, you still had to turn you head all the way around to see the huge crowd of people that gathered to see Rage. Their performance exploded, playing all of their hits first. When viewing the fans of Rage, I realized how they all spent hundreds of dollars to see one hour of an epic event. The only thing they cared about was Rage, ignoring all the other wonderful amazing acts that were at Coachella.

After leaving the Rage stage, I met up with my friends to see the Israeli band Infected Mushroom. Compared to the 60,000 at the main stage, we were only a few hundred at Infected Mushroom, but it was one of the most enjoyable times all together. It was all about the music, not about the image of L.A. like most of the day happened to be.

After listening to Infected Mushroom, I realized what this festival was all about. It was about experiencing music that you might not have before and about meeting people and breaking outside of the mindless music that the radio feed the masses. As Infected Mushroom continued to play, my friends and I danced on the stage until Coachella weekend faded away.

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And if anyone is interested:
RATM - Set List

01. Testify
02. Bulls On Parade
03. People Of The Sun
04. Bombtrack
05. Bullet In The Head
06. Down Rodeo
07. Guerrilla Radio
08. Renegades Of Funk (AF-RIKA BAMBATAA cover)
09. Calm Like A Bomb
10. Sleep Now In The Fire
11. Wake Up
12. Freedom
13. Killing In The Name

upcoming
events

sports

Thursday May 3,

Softball vs. Western Oregon
2:30 p.m.
Logan Field

Friday May 4,

UW softball vs. Stanford
1 p.m.
Husky Softball Stadium

Softball vs. Western Oregon
2:30 p.m.
Logan Field

UW track Ken Shannon Invitational
4:30 p.m.
Husky Stadium

UW baseball vs. Oregon State
7:30 p.m.
Safeco Field

Saturday May 5,

UW baseball vs. Oregon State
2 p.m.
Husky Ballpark

UW crew Windermere Cup
10 a.m.
Montlake Cut

UW softball vs. California
2 p.m.
Husky Softball Stadium

Seattle Sounders vs. Portland Timbers
7 p.m.
Qwest Field

Sunday May 6,

UW baseball vs. Oregon State
1 p.m.
Husky Ballpark

UW softball vs. California
1 p.m.
Husky Softball Stadium

Men's soccer vs. Seattle Sounders
4 p.m.
French Field in Kent

Tuesday May 8,

UW baseball vs. Portland State
6:30 p.m.
Husky Ballpark

Softball one last shot at Regionals

Jessica Van Gilder
Staff Writer

After a dominating sweep in Thursday's games at Northwest Nazarene University, the Seattle University softball team split against Central Washington University Sunday, pushing them further away from their berth to regionals.

Before the disappointing split on Sunday, SU had five wins between two doubleheaders earlier in the week and the win on Sunday.

"We actually had a good week. We played well other than some defensive miscues," said Dan Powers, head coach. "The NNU games were really weird. Everybody came out hitting and...wow. Basically, we had a good week."

The team worked NNU's pitching on Thursday, easily winning both games 13-2 and 24-2. Aside from NNU's 11 errors, the team earned 31 hits between the two games, which gave the lineup confidence going into Sunday's games.

However, facing CWU took a little more effort and SU fell slightly short defensively in the second game.

"With NNU we started off strong. We got on a hitting streak and it became contagious," said Sandra Hernandez, freshman infielder. "When we played Central Washington we did really well and had the same kind of attitude, but

we had a little bit of a tougher time with the pitcher and getting on base."

In the first game against CWU, SU battled through pitching and tight defense for six innings. The team had eight strikeouts and went into the seventh inning with 1-1 tie, but the team finally broke through CWU's pitching for five runs in the seventh.

Heather Hansen, who Powers said had a break-out week, set the tone for her teammates in the seventh inning after hitting a solo-home run, which teammate Kaha Weir, who also had a break-out week, followed with a double. With bases loaded twice in the seventh inning SU earned four more runs for a 6-1 lead.

Although CWU battled in the bottom of the seventh, and scored two runs, Erin Martin, junior pitcher, shut out the team's chances with a strikeout to end the game and seal the win 6-3.

The team also struggled against the wind in Sunday's games, which stopped some hard hits from passing the fence.

In the second game, both teams put up runs early in the game, but CWU got a hold of Martin's pitching in the third inning, giving them a 4-2 lead up until the fifth inning.

SU tied the game 4-4 after scoring two runs in the top of the fifth,

but defensive errors in the second half of the fifth allowed four unearned CWU runs to score.

Although Powers said the wind played a role in two of the errors he also said "We had a few mental lapses that allowed them to score six runs. We beat ourselves that game. We should [have] won that game."

SU scored three more runs by the sixth inning, but CWU doubled SU's runs in those same innings, strengthening their lead to 10-5 at the end of the sixth. CWU secured the 10-5 winning with a three up, three down top half of the seventh inning.

For Weir, sophomore psychology major, the loss in the second game was particularly disappointing.

"It's upsetting that we split because as a team we hit very well Sunday and consistency has always been our trouble, especially with batting, but unfortunately the huge factor in our second game loss we because of defensive errors," said Weir. "Our mental game wasn't really on. The other team took advantage of that and beat us."

Weir went 6-6 in Sunday's games, hitting two doubles and a home run that battled against the wind and hit the scoreboard. Despite their improved efforts, the Redhawk's offense did not make up for the team's defensive errors.

Because of the loss SU fell two games behind Western Oregon University, leader in conference, despite the sweeps against NNU and Saint Martin's University earlier in the week.

However, the team's bats are certainly back in the game and helping to motivate teammates for their games against WOU.

"Now that we're finally hitting it's really kind of motivating us more going into the games against Western Oregon because we know we can hit," said Hernandez. "Now everyone's hitting and it's more of a team effort, which makes the whole aspect of it better."

SU's going to need their bats when they face Western Oregon this week. The team must beat WOU to earn a berth to regionals.

"The past four games have been a confidence booster for our team as a whole and I'm just hoping everyone is looking forward to it," said Weir. "We can't get complacent, but knowing we're at least showing improvement [offensively], though late, it helps a lot. It's going to be a dog fight."

SU needs to keep their defense tight and continue stringing hits together when they play Western Oregon at home on Thursday at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

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Club lacrosse measures up to UW



In Thursday's game Seattle University's Theresa Thelen-Clemmons, sophomore attack, scored two goals, as did Marie Vermaas, sophomore attack. Additional goals were accumulated by Kat Crichton, sophomore low defense, and Sara Hall, freshman attack wing.

Women's lacrosse is a club sport, which is sponsored and partially funded through the recreational sports department. The team was formed last year, and competed through a series of exhibition matches. This past year the team was accepted into the WDIA, the collegiate level women's lacrosse club league, and competed in the Northwest region of the association. Over the course of the season SU faced off against teams from Oregon State University, the University of Washington, Western Washington University, Lewis and Clark College and Boise State University to name a few.

This season the team compiled a record of 3-7-1, which according to team captains, exceeded expectations.

"It was our first year as a full team in the league, and we exceeded my expectations," said Vermaas, sophomore co-captain. "Compared to last year we were much further ahead, we competed with lot of the teams."

The team looks to return a majority of its members next season, as no one from this year's team will



Nick Lollini

The Spectator

Sophomore Co-Captain Marie Vermaas battles for defensive position, while looking to stick check a University of Washington attacker. Vermaas thwarted the drive and returned control of the ball to SU.

graduate in 2007. According to Purcell, the team is not allowed to recruit because of their club status, however, they can promote themselves to students that already plan on attending the university next year. Purcell stated that there have already been several women whom played in high school interested in playing for Seattle University.

"We're don't really do any [training] over the summer, in the fall we have conditioning and practice twice a week," said Vermaas. "A lot of recruiting is by word of mouth. We

also have the club website and the club fair, where we reach a lot of new freshman."

Next season the team is prepared to work toward improving their record, and has set a goal of winning at least half of their games, in addition to receiving an invitation to regionals.

"This year we played really well, half of the team has never played before, but most everybody is coming back next year," said Thelen-Clemmons.

This year the team received an invitation to the regional tournament,

however did not attend due to an insufficient amount of time to plan for the event.

"When we made it to regionals we were in shock. We didn't plan on [receiving an invitation]. We were told on Wednesday, and needed to be at Western Oregon University by Saturday," said Purcell. "It was too soon to play in regionals, we decided instead to work hard and prepare for next year."

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Fan adopts team as his own

Sean Towey
Staff Writer

If the Seattle University softball team was asked to name their most loyal follower, they would need no time to deliberate. They would answer with one voice, "George, of course."

George Hildreth spends his weekends attending as many softball home games as possible. A 68-year-old retired Boeing employee, he wears a red Seattle University hat, a blue hooded sweatshirt, jeans and old tennis shoes. He sits as close to the dugout as he can, giving the girls advice and encouragement before they go up to bat.

"C'mon, you can do it!" he yells. "Let's go 1-4, battle this one out!"

If they hit a home run, he makes sure to go and give the player a high five.

Hildreth's love of softball and Seattle University softball especially has been built gradually over the years. He's been attending games since 1998.

"I had a daughter that played," said Hildreth. "I worked the second shift at Boeing, so it was hard for me to go to the games. She died in 1992. I figure I lost one daughter, but I've gained about 10,000."

After Hildreth retired in 1997, he decided that he would commit as much of his time as possible to the community.

"I just adopted all these girls as my daughters," said Hildreth. "These girls are all my babies."

Hildreth, as any good parent does, spoil his "babies" thoroughly. If a player hits a home run, he brings her a candy bar. Once, Hildreth told the team that if they won all four of their games the upcoming weekend, he would bring pizza to the next practice.



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

George Hildreth has been attending Seattle University softball games since he retired in 1998.

tice.

"That was an expensive weekend," said Hildreth, smiling. "It was 70 bucks for all that pizza."

Deep down, Hildreth knows he could not think of a better way to spend that money.

Junior general science major Erin Martin feels as strongly about Hildreth as he does for her and the rest of the team.

"He's a part of your family," she said. "It's not a game if you don't hear George there. He loves being a part of the team, and we really appreciate him."

After watching the team for nine years now, Hildreth has some favorite memories.

"Last year, a player [Jane Purdy, junior second baseman] cost me three candy bars in one game," he said. "That was pretty special."

Though his wife graduated from Seattle University in the early 1960's, that is not the main reason why Hil-

dreth is such an avid fan.

"All of these girls really respect me," said Hildreth. "That means a lot to me."

His love of softball leads him to do grounds maintenance for games and tournaments around Seattle.

"When I come off a field, I know its going to be a safe place for those kids to play on," said Hildreth.

Raised in Arkansas, Hildreth visited a friend in Seattle when he was 19. He was supposed to stay for just two weeks, but found a job and has been here ever since.

"I thought, 'I've found a new heaven,'" he said.

Though he admits he's getting older, Hildreth sees himself at a lot more softball games.

"Until the day I can't walk anymore," he said. "That's the day I'll be too tired to go to a softball game."

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'Florida or Bust' still motto for SU baseball club

Rose Egge
Staff Writer

In just one year, things have certainly changed for Seattle University's club baseball team, and this weekend it showed.

Last year, Seattle lost five of their six games against Eastern Washington University, losing one game 26-1. This weekend, however, the Redhawks swept Eastern and defeated their club 26-1.

This weekend Seattle also clinched the conference title, a large improvement from last year, when they came in second to last.

"I still can't believe it. Last year we won eight games and lost 16. This year we won 15 games against some of the toughest competition in the county while only losing five," said Aaron Yoon, team manager. "Nobody around the entire league expected anything from Seattle U baseball. We shocked a lot of people."

Despite being the smallest team in the country, they have made their presence known in the NCBA and will move on to the regional playoffs in La Grande, Ore. on May 11-13.

"We have one of the tougher conferences in the nation with Western [Washington University] and [the University of] Oregon," said Nick Shekeryk, senior first baseman. "We showed that we could play with either team and used the momentum from our seven game win streak to secure us a spot in the playoffs."

Coming into the last series the Redhawks expected to fight hard against a team that had played well the week before against Western.

While Eastern started off strong, they quickly lost their momentum and were unable to regain it the rest of the weekend. In the first inning of game one, the Eagles showed their offensive power, hitting two two-run home runs to gain a 4-0 lead on the Redhawks. But Nick Richey, sophomore pitcher, buckled down after that inning and didn't allow another run from Eastern for the rest of the game.

"After [the first inning] it was easy to see that we were the better team. Blanchard started off by getting the first hit and we just kept piling them on from there," said Jordan Chanes freshman outfielder.

Besides solid pitching, Seattle stood out offensively all weekend. Shekeryk had a big weekend with two doubles, a triple and five RBIs. Chanes also had a strong showing at the plate and Sean Namanny, senior infielder and pitcher, hit his first home run of the year.

"Offensively, we had a great series. Everybody hit the ball and

we jumped on top of them early in the games to make it difficult for a comeback. I feel that this weekend really helped our team confidence offensively," said Shekeryk.

Despite rough field conditions, the Redhawks also played nearly flawless defense, supported by consistently strong pitching.

"We swung the bats well and played solid defense each game even though the field was not very giving. Nick Shekeryk was outstanding at the plate and a couple other guys stepped up and produced runs when others were struggling," said Keegan Nokes, sophomore third baseman.

Eastern was unable to contribute much offensively after that first inning and their frustration showed on Sunday when multiple errors allowed a Seattle victory of 26-1.

"Eastern was unable to adjust accordingly to hitters. They seemed to have a set pattern for each batter that was easy to catch on too," said Shekeryk. "Once we put up a good lead in the first couple innings, they seemed to lose hope and we took full advantage."

While the rest of the Northern Pacific Conference may not have expected Seattle to make a playoff appearance, there was no doubt among the teammates.

"From the first time we met Coach Jackson he said that he expected nothing less than a world series appearance. We took on that approach at each practice, concluding with a big Florida shout. It was always in the back of our minds that we could do it," said Nokes.

To prepare for regionals, Seattle will stay on their regular practice schedule, play one makeup game against Evergreen State College and spend their spare time in the batting cages to keep their offensive momentum going. Seattle's biggest concern will be going into the playoffs with just three starting pitchers. Luckily, Richey, Roach and Namanny have all performed well throughout the season.

"We expect to win. We have probably the best starting pitching rotation in the nation and all 3 of us can win every game, so if we hit, even a little bit, we should be very successful and we expect to win the tournament," said Namanny.

If Seattle does well at regionals they will play in the NCBA World Series in Fort Meyer, Fla. on May 24-30.

"I expect to win regionals," said Nokes. "It has always been our mentality and we are sticking to it: Florida or bust."

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Twilight Meet prepares track for GNAC championships

Jessie DiMariano
Staff Writer

Poor weather didn't stop the Seattle University track and field team from putting their best racing feet forward at last weekend's Twilight Meet, hosted by Western Washington University. In spite of the less than desirable weather conditions, the team managed to utilize the competition as valuable preparation for the conference championships next weekend.

"Unfortunately the weather conditions were far from ideal at the meet," said Trisha Steidl, head coach. "Everyone did well under the conditions and I was proud of how they handled the weather."

Freshman thrower Lindsay Currier won the shot put and took the lead throw in the discus with a personal best effort of 129-7.

Also earning a personal best performance was Mara Becker, freshman jumper, who cleared 4-11¾, earning a third place finish in the high jump and demonstrating her training off the competitive field.

"In high school I relied fully on my bounce but had no form. At a collegiate level you have to put both together if you want to score points,"

said Becker. "Eric [Schueffner, assistant coach], is really helping me put all aspects of my jump together."

Also making seasonal improvements were freshman and sophomore distance runners Chris Henry and Natalie Martinez.

"Chris has been feeling pretty tired and heavy-legged and yet he went out and ran a huge season's best in the 800 and Natalie has been dealing with some issues with her leg and hasn't been able to get in workouts on the track and ran very well," said Steidl.

Both team members competed in light of their setbacks. Henry finished in 15th place in the 800-meter run, while Martinez finished 12th in the 3000-meter run.

"These performances are testaments to how determined these people are and that even when things aren't going perfectly, you can still compete well," said Steidl.

Beating the elements, Garrett Brown, senior sprinter and jumper, placed fifth in the men's 400-meter hurdles. Meanwhile, the 4x100-meter relay team took first place in their competition, despite a rumored malfunction with the automatic timing.

Steidl said both Schueffner and Uli Steidl, assistant coach, timed the

team's race and designated their finishing time to be two seconds faster than the one recorded at the meet, at 45.45 seconds.

"We had a good run but I feel that it didn't reflect in our time," said Travis Glover, junior sprinter and one of the four relay team members who competed Friday.

Glover also secured an interim GNAC qualifying time of 23.14 seconds in the 200-meter dash, earning him a third place finish in the race.

Also adding to the men's solid efforts was Nicholas Alvarado, freshman distance runner, who picked up a ninth place finish in the 5000-meter run in 15:40.11, Seattle University's leading time in the event this season.

Hoping to advance their previous ninth place finishes in last year's conference meet, the men's and women's teams return to the Civic Stadium Friday and Saturday for the GNAC championships, hosted by Western Washington University.

"We have twice as many people qualified for conference compared to last year, so we should be able to score a lot more points," said Steidl.

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editorial

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On Tuesday, President Bush sent a clear message to the Democratic majority of Congress: Do not set a time table for withdrawal from Iraq, and do not compromise the United States efforts in the War on Terror. It was the right message to send at in a time where partisan politics dominate the public sphere.

Whether people like to admit it or not, the mission of the Iraq War has yet to be accomplished. As a result, the post-"Mission Accomplished" military debacle that has arisen as a result of mismanagement and a lack of a concrete course of action is likely to remain a dark era of American history on a scale comparable to the Vietnam War.

Regardless, the immediate call for withdrawal of troops from Iraq is a shortsighted political ploy aimed at destabilizing an already unpopular President and a weakened Republican party. This would do nothing further than light a match against an already oil-soaked region.

The Middle East – and Iraq in particular – can be appropriately described as the powder keg of the modern era. The region is in the midst of a scramble between the political powers of Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, not to mention the countless sects and religious sponsored militias all vying for power. Despite all this, the United States made a conscious decision to immerse ourselves deep within this boiling cauldron. Unfortunately for the American people – many of whom have since realized the error in our WMD-seeking ways – it is too late to simply cut and run.

The facts remain: the United States should not have entered Iraq in the first place. The Iraqi security forces are not prepared or well enough equipped to defend their country alone. And the death toll on both sides is becoming increasingly disturbing.

Yet it is also apparent that immediate withdrawal is not the right approach to take. Removing what little semblance of order that the United States has developed in post-Saddam Iraq would plunge the region into chaos; not just Iraq, but the entire Middle East. And the consequences could be disastrous, both politically and economically, for secular and free nations across the globe.

The American people do not have a choice on the Iraq issue: the president has made up his mind. Even though he may stand behind this decision simply to save face and to avoid admitting his mistakes, it will still take more than Nancy Pelosi and her army of stooges to change the course in Iraq.

What America needs is to unite, forgetting about political parties and whether or not we agree with the president. What is important at this point is to support the soldiers in Iraq risking an increasingly dangerous situation and, more importantly, to develop a bipartisan and reasonable strategy for the future of the war. The sooner such a strategy is developed, the sooner the troops will be on their way home.

The Spectator editorial board consists of Nicholas Lollini, Megan Peter, Brenda Stice, Lauren Padgett and Rob La Gatta. Signed commentaries reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of *The Spectator*.

What is the human view of the world

Mike Magidman
Staff writer

The tumultuous buzz of the city's various happenings arrive at my ear in surprisingly well-regulated intervals. The metaphysics in my lap blurs by me at dizzying speeds like a bullet train, and the words mesh together into one incomprehensible trail of ink. I have to get this work done. I have to go to class. I have to go to work. I have to write this article. I have to relax.

With hectic daily schedules it becomes nearly impossible to view the distinct entities of this universe except as they relate to us.

Recently the folks at the BBC and Discovery Communications released "Planet Earth," an 11 part series that characterized and exhibited the planet in all its glory.

The sensually ravishing series was in the oven for over five years, and was filmed at more than 200 locations. This outstanding focus yielded personal perspectives of the planet never before experienced. Footage of a rare snow leopard on a mountain hunt, an in depth showcase of the ecosystem at the bottom of the ocean and a mating dance from a tropical bird of paradise are just a few examples

of the mysteriously powerful experience.

An original score and the narration of Sigourney Weaver (U.S. version) accompany the footage and sound. While the cameras and microphones do not have a bias, the writers, composers and editors certainly do, and this partiality was explicitly contained in the production. We just need to know where to look.

In the opening sequence that appeared before each of the 11 installments a message expressed in several phrases flashed on the screen with a series of images. One of the phrases read, "This is your world." At first shocking glance I wondered whether it's a very good idea for a documentary viewed by masses to implant or encourage the notion of ownership in our heads. It's no wonder Scarface went out the way he did, but it's okay because for a fleeting moment, the world was his.

My perplexing horror was amplified when the subtle mission of the entire composition that was "Planet Earth" announced itself to me (not so subtly) at the conclusion of the last episode titled "Deep Oceans." As the camera angle widened and the pair of blue whales became smaller in comparison to the vast ocean, the

narrator announced that humans are responsible for the fate of every animal on the planet. This bold statement led me to wonder what line of thinking sees humans as this all-powerful determining force. I also thought a little bit about magicians because that line made it clear to me that this mini-series was employing an elaborate form of misdirection.

This all presented a problem for me because the amazing images and sounds of the series were awe-inspiring, but I simply couldn't reconcile the overtones of anthropocentrism in the production.

Anthropos is a Greek term that means human or refers things pertaining to humans (i.e. anthropology is the study of humans/human culture). Anthropocentrism is a common term in environmental language referring to behaviors and ideologies that are human centered or that place eminent emphasis on humans as ultimately supreme.

Upon further armchair investigation I concluded that this misdirection did at least have a redeeming goal: let's all treat the planet better. Surely this should be near the top of our to-do list.

However, I still can't shake the intuition that the anthropocentrism

was unnecessary and even detrimental to that cause. The message: let's all treat the planet better because it's OUR world and WE are the caretakers. This mind state of possession can and has quickly and easily turned from "let's take care of OUR world" to "well, it is our world, and we could use some more (insert current resource of commodity) so we can exploit (insert current debated environmental locus) and it won't matter because after all, THIS IS OUR WORLD."

Ignoring the slippery slope aspect, it just seemed like overkill. I could have watched the whole series without the dramatic music and witty narration and still been awestruck. Nature does not need a helping hand from humans to reflect the divine beauty, and the attitude that we have the ability to make nature better or to improve on it resonates with arrogance.

If I had watched "Planet Earth" on mute I would still be reveling in the mysterious intricacy of this unspeakably beautiful world, and that enigmatic feeling is enough to tell me that I should treat this world with respect and reverence.

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Letters to the editor should be 300 to 500 words long and emailed to Rob La Gatta at lagatta@seattleu.edu. *The Spectator* reserves the right to edit letters for length and spelling, grammar, and style errors.

Does the SU community recycle?

Lauren Cowley
Volunteer writer

During the last three months, I have conducted approximately seventeen waste audits on the Seattle University campus. A waste audit consists of multiple bags of trash, recycling materials and an eager person, me, to dig through each bag. The goal of the audits was to come up with an estimate as to how often, and in what percentage, the students, faculty and staff of Seattle University are recycling. The results were shocking at first, and then a pattern began to appear. Regardless of the multitude of recycling bins around campus and in the dorms, Seattle University is only recycling paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum at a third of its potential!

The included graph shows each building and the percentage of recyclable materials found in the garbage. A marking of 50 percent indicates that half of the garbage coming out of the building daily could have been recycled.

Students:

The bad news is the average percentage of recyclables thrown away in the dorms is 40 percent. This calculation came from visiting the recycling/trash closets on floor at 7 a.m. of each dorm. It was shocking to see that students at this University felt that although there are several, clearly marked recycling bins on each floor, throwing away all kinds of plastic, glass, aluminum and paper is ok!

Did you know that the trash is emptied daily? That comes to 33 bags

from Campion, 18 from Bellarmine, 12 from the Murphy Apartments and 6 from Xavier. Not to mention at least 100 bags from the entire campus. Students are throwing away millions of items that should be recycled.

The good news is students know what items are recyclable, because the recycling bins on each floor had 95 percent paper, plastic, glass and aluminum. However, based on the large amount found in the garbage, those bins should have been full.

Recycling not only keeps valuable resources out of landfills, but it promotes a more sustainable way of living and viewing yourself in the world. I have heard about people who simply don't believe in recycling. So if you consider yourself one of those people, I'd be more than happy to take you out for coffee and we can talk it over.

Faculty & Staff:

The amount of recyclables in the trash in campus buildings ranged from 5 to 50 percent. The high percentage of recyclables in the trash from Garrand, Administration and the Connolly Center were found in the hallway trash containers, even though there are also recycling containers nearby. In offices, desk-side trash bins had a large amount of recyclable beverage containers. This means that the choice to recycle in an office space is very individual. Across the US, many offices have successfully increased their recycling by not having personal desk-side trash or recycling bins. Instead, staff members carry their waste to a central location on their floor. Not

only does this encourage recycling, but also it keeps desk side plastic bags from being changed everyday.

Each building has a written report of the waste audit, which is available at the facilities webpage (www.seattleu.edu/facilities). These reports contain suggested improvements and plans to help with reducing the amount of recyclable and compostable waste in each building. Compostable materials include paper plates, napkins and paper coffee cups. This was added to the reports because an overwhelming amount of paper products were found in office garbage. Composting is not available in all offices, but an easier option is to bring a reusable cup to work everyday. Not only do you get a discount on coffee, you keep paper cups out of landfills.

Facts:

Every year recycling steel to supply L.A. with nearly a decade's worth of electricity saves enough energy.

Making one ton of recycled paper uses only about 60 percent of the energy needed to make a ton of virgin paper.

Every aluminum can that is recycled saves 95 percent of the energy that it would have taken to manufacture a new one from bauxite. In other words, when a can is tossed in the trash as much energy is thrown away as if the can was half full of gasoline. Recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

Recycling glass lowers the melting point for the new glass, saving up to 32 percent of the energy needed for

production.

Every year Americans throw away nearly 10 million tons of newspaper. If these papers were all recycled, over 150 million trees would be left standing, less than half as much energy would be used, and air pollution from the manufacturing process would be cut by more than 70 percent.

Recycling reduces the amount of pollution created during the manufacturing process. The end result is cleaner air, land, and water. The earth's resources are finite. Reduce, reuse or recycle to conserve valuable resources. - The Recycling Connection

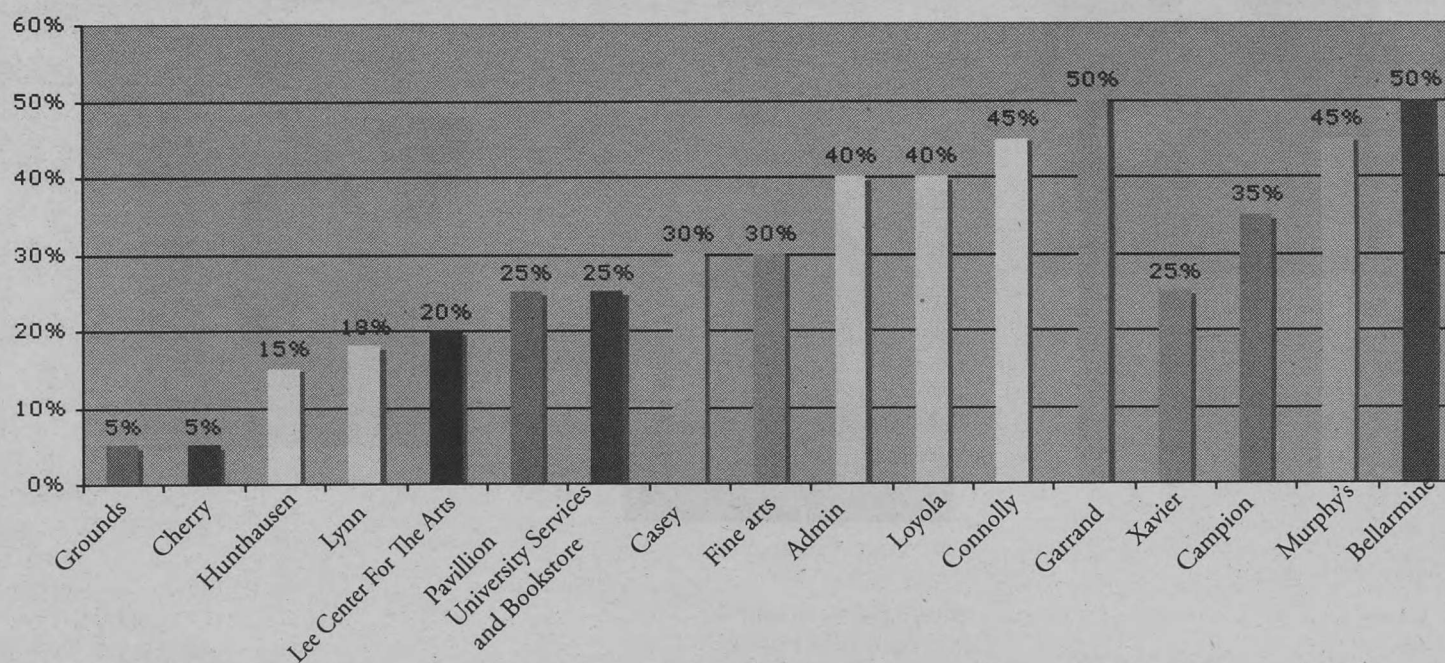
If the 25.5 million tons of durable goods now discarded were reclaimed through reuse operations, more than 220,000 new jobs could be created in this industry alone.

On a per-ton basis, for every job created at a landfill, recycling sustains 10 more jobs just

through sorting materials.

Considering the current environmental issues we face as a global community, individual choices today carry the weight of sustainability for future generations. As hard as it may be for all of us to conceptualize the magnitude of what climate change is going to mean for the earth in years to come, recycling is easy and it has direct benefits. Each of our individual choices and actions affect everyone and everything in our environment.

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An unpatriotic approach to US flag etiquette

Megan Peter
Managing editor

It needs to first be stated that I am not a patriotic person. While I will stand for the pledge of allegiance, I won't say it. I am grateful for the country that I live in and the opportunities I am given because of it, but I do not agree with most of what is being done in the name of our country. But that being said I do think that the flag should be flown at half-mast after tragic events such as that which occurred at Virginia Tech.

Our flag, just like all countries' flags, is a symbol. It represents many different things to many different people; thus creating not one single meaning for it. I agree that we should be allowed to burn the flag as a form of political statement simply because of the strong symbolic

meaning that it has.

And the outrage and often lively debate that is caused when discussing flag burning is the same reason why we should fly the flag at half-mast. If it is something that people get up in arms about when discussing its destruction, then it is obviously a powerful statement to see it flown at half-mast.

It is a means for us to show a form of unity and support for not only those who died, but also for their friends and family. When we are faced with a tragedy like Virginia Tech, we feel this need that we want to help, do something besides sitting and watching our televisions for the most recent updates. Part of the way that we as country can show our support is by lowering the flag.

And while those at Virginia Tech who died were not key political figures

in the United States or even a major celebrity their deaths were tragic enough to warrant the flags being at half-mast for the week proceeding the event. Since there is no official protocol for when the flag should be lowered if someone other than a government official dies, it is up to the president to announce if flags across the nation should be lowered.

I would agree that, yes, it would be ridiculous if President Bush ordered the flags to be at half-mast after Anna Nicole Smith had died, despite the whirlwind of media attention her death was given. But he didn't and that is probably one of the few acts I will ever agree with him on.

Many people argue that we lowered the flag for 32 people who happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time but we won't lower the flag every time a

service person dies in alleged protection of the country. But then that creates a two-fold problem or a) the flag would constantly be at half-mast significantly decreasing the impact of the action b) we are at war and people are going to die, that is one of the many characteristics that make up a war.

With events like Virginia Tech or the Oklahoma City bombings innocent citizens were killed for doing nothing except for what they do every day. It is times like that and the death of current or former presidents that deserve to have the flag flown at half-mast. It is a simple sign of respect that has a significant impact on more people than we think.

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Letters to the editor

Dear editor,

I opened up the latest edition of The Spectator and I found that your staff made their own additions to my article originally entitled "Feminism and Life." A misleading addition was made, in particular, to the title. The Spectator staff printed the large-texted title as: "Feminism and life: a woman's so-called right to abortion." Yes, the article is a pro-life article, but it is also pro-feminism. I draw on the strong, crucial feminist influences in my personal life and also historical women's rights leaders as sources of inspiration. I do mention in the article that these aforementioned women leaders "never considered abortion a woman's right," but in the context of my article it makes it clear that these women did/do not view abortion as a right as they held abortion to be killing. In the Spectator-imposed title, this concept is altered, taken out of context and does not accurately acknowledge what these feminists believed. Instead, the false title paints the article, the author and anyone with pro-life beliefs as chauvinists who do not support women's rights. As I mention in the article, I am a feminist and I have been greatly influenced by feminists who are also pro-life.

I understand that periodicals often change titles of their staff writers' articles, but I am not a staff writer and I was never notified by this publication that such a title would be used. The Students for Life club here on campus and those who are willing to take a stand on life issues experience enough difficulty and backlash on this campus and city. I am constantly honored and inspired by many friends, students and fellow club members who make it clear that they are willing to face such opposition. That, however, never permits misleading additions that paint certain persons or groups as what they most certainly are not.

I respond, in this manner, to the offensive oversight/addition not simply because I wish to protect myself. One, regardless of which views one may hold, should not be misrepresented and have their written work tarnished due to additions not made by one's self, the original author. All editorials and their writers should be protected against such treatment. I am very surprised to see this occur after having perceived The Spectator as improved over a year ago.

David Bernica

Dear editor,

This has been bugging me since the beginning of the year and after 10 plus times of seeing this in your newspaper I have decided to say something. Whoever writes/edits the public safety reports should note that marijuana is NOT a narcotic. Everyone incident involving marijuana has the title "Narcotics Activity." A narcotic is any drug that is derived from opium. Please correct this frequent error as it is incorrectly informing the students who read your paper. Thanks

Andy Osborn

Assault (Simple)
April 27, 1:28 p.m.

An off duty Public Safety staff member reported an altercation between two non-affiliate males near Logan Field. Public Safety responded and separated the two men. The Seattle Police Department and Fire Department responded as well. One male was arrested on an outstanding warrant, and the other was taken to the hospital to be checked on.

Safety Assist
April 27, 11:43 p.m.

Public Safety staff in one of the residence halls discovered spilt blood in a men's restroom. Facilities was contacted and responded to clean up the mess. It was later learned a student had cut his hand on some glass and was likely responsible for the mess.

Disturbance
April 28, 1:55 a.m.

Public Safety observed two individuals in a loud conversation near one of the residence halls. As PS staff approached, they recognized one of the persons as having trespassed on campus in the past. The other person, an SU student, was asked to go back to the building. The non-affiliate immediately left the area.

Accident - Hit and Run
April 28, 8:33 p.m.

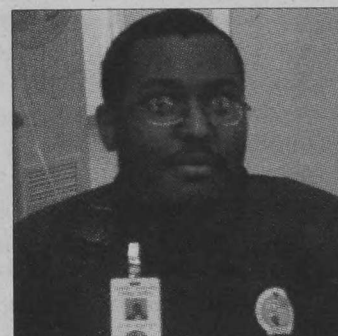
A community member returned to their car parked in the Pigott lot and noticed that someone had hit their car without leaving any contact information. The Seattle Police Department was contacted so the individual could file a hit and run report.

Prowler
April 29, 2:09 a.m.

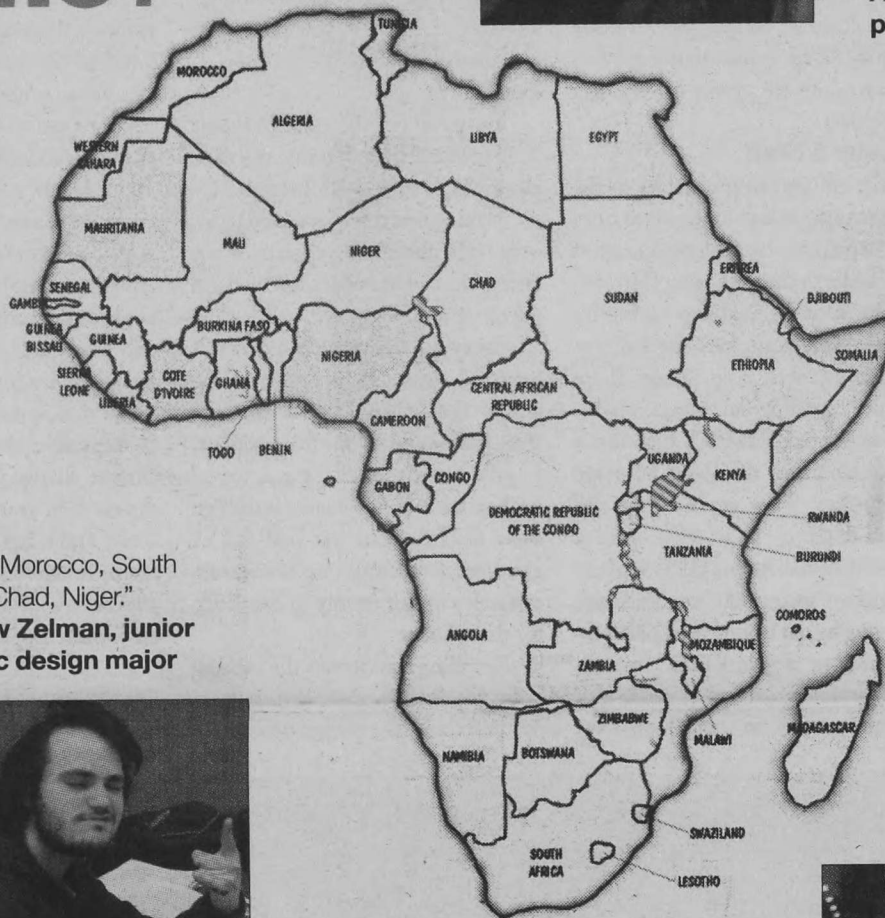
Public Safety staff observed a person casing cars and the building external doors in the south parking lot near Campion. Officers approached and started identifying the male, who subsequently ran. The Seattle Police Department responded and, after a short chase, arrested the man, who had an outstanding arrest warrant.

Which five African countries can you name?

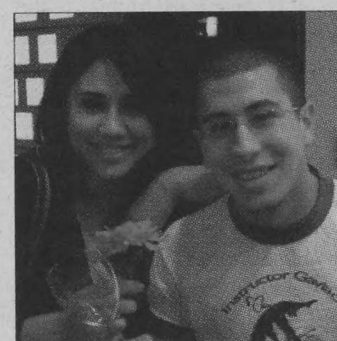
"Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Egypt, Sierra Leone."
Shane DeForce and Courtney Howell,
freshmen biology majors



"Uganda, Mozambique, Egypt, Djibouti, Kenya."
Andre Gougisha, freshman political science major

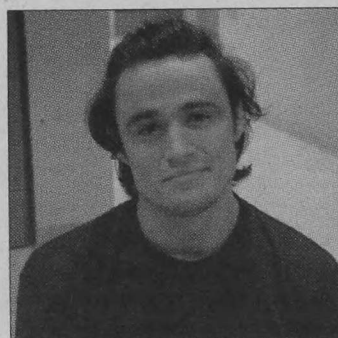


"Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Chad, Niger."
Andrew Zelman, junior graphic design major

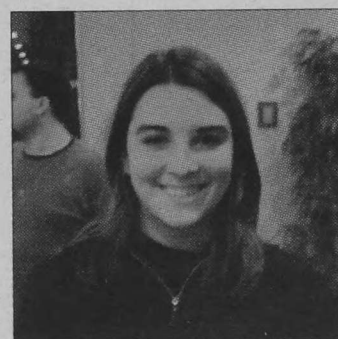


"Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, Madagascar, Ghana."
Juan Gallegos, sophomore accounting and Spanish major, **Emmanuelle Escandar,** sophomore humanities and civil engineering major

Photos and Interviews by
Megan Peter



"Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Uganda, Kenya."
Sean Ryan, graduate student psychology



"Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, Egypt, Ivory Coast."
Lauren Ruth, junior communication studies major

What causes thunder?

Question submitted by: Stephanie Wright
Answer presented by The Physics Club

The easy answer to this question is that lightning causes thunder, but we suspect that this avoids the real question. Why is it that lightning makes noise? To answer this, it helps to know what lightning is...but we don't need to discuss what causes it.

A bolt of lightning is nothing more than a large amount of electrical current; in other words, a bunch of electrons all moving in the same direction (note that an electron is a fundamental particle that carries one unit of negative electrical charge). In this way, lightning is no different than a copper wire carrying DC (Direct Current), except that in a copper wire the electrons travel through copper. But in lightning, the electrons are simply traveling through the air.

In both the case of lightning and the copper wire, the electrons move from a lower to higher electric potential energy (because they have negative charge they move "upwards" in potential).

The electrons, which are in large quantities and moving quickly, have high energy and this energy is dissipated in the form of light and heat.

The dissipation of energy in the form of light is what is seen.

However, the dissipation of energy in the form of heat is what we are interested in. The large amount of current heats the air on and near the path of the lightning and it does so very quickly and to an extremely high temperature (18,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a couple microseconds). This heating causes the air to expand rapidly, creating a pressure wave that propagates outward. Since all sounds are nothing more than pressure waves, when the wave created by the lightning reaches our ears, we hear it (as thunder).

One additional amusing fact about lightning is that once it has struck and heated a channel of air, subsequent lightning strikes tend to (and usually do) reuse the same channel. This is why sometime lightning flashes several times. It invalidates the old saying that "lightning never strikes in the same place twice."

Please send your science-y questions to the physics club: suphysicsclub@hotmail.com